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TURKEY.

Annual Report, 1909.

[4235]

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 55.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 31, 1910.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my annual report on this country for the year 1909. In compiling this report I have received specially valuable assistance from Messrs. Marling, Mounsey, and Monson for chapters which it has been materially impossible for me to compile myself.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure.

Annual Report on Turkey for the year 1909.

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A Year of Constitutional Government.

IN my report of last year, I went at some length into the details of the outbreak of the revolution against Sultan Abdul Hamid's despotic rule, and described the endeavours of the Young Turks to establish something akin to constitutional government. The great effort towards working out this immense political and social revolution was the election of a Parliament which met on the 17th December, 1908; and the vast majority of public opinion then hoped that the secret society which, under the name of the Committee of Union and Progress, to all intents and purposes governed the country, would disappear and make way for some true system of parliamentary government. We shall see how the public has been disappointed and how, at the end of the year 1909, the committee is still all-powerful and able to exercise its influence over the Chamber.

In the early days of January, rumours were afloat that Kiamil Pasha resented the interference of the said committee in his appointments and in his actions. Curiously enough, some Englishmen, members of the Balkan committee, were unwillingly brought into the quarrel. These gentlemen had been invited to come to Constantinople by the committee to bear witness to the progress that had been made. The members of the latter arranged for Kiamil Pasha to entertain these gentlemen, but his Highness resenting, the invitation having been given without his being consulted, declined to accede to the demand. The dinner was, however, eventually given, but the incident, coupled with the general distrust of the younger and more violent men of the committee, who were beginning to assume the old despotic ways of Yildiz, bent all their influence and power to bringing about the Grand Vizier's downfall. The latter, counting on the solid vote of the Arab party and on the vast majority of the population, did not appear to anticipate the possibility of such an occurrence; and the committee even went so far as to repudiate in a message to his Highness the hostile attitude advocated by some of their party.

Encouraged by what appeared to be a success, Kiamil Pasha took an early opportunity of making a declaration of his policy to Parliament.

The necessity for financial reform, the establishment of peace abroad, and law and order at home, the reorganisation of the army and navy and the custom-house which his Highness laid down as his programme appealed sufficiently to the Chamber to induce it to give him what was practically an unanimous vote of confidence. Further encouraged, and feeling the impossibility of governing with a Cabinet that did not support him with all honesty, Kiamil Pasha determined to rid himself of the Ministers of War and the Navy, the important members of the Cabinet for the maintenance of order, and, profiting by the fact that these Ministers had placed themselves at his Highness's disposal, he replaced them by General Nazim and Admiral Husni who had no relations with the committee. This was the signal of an open split between the Liberal Unionists and the committee, and on the grounds that the Sultan and the Grand Vizier had no right to make such appointments without the knowledge of the other members of the Cabinet, an interpellation was announced. The Minister of the Interior who was allied to the committee, though not a declared member of it, and his colleague of the Ministry of Justice also resigned.

The Grand Vizier, having received a message to present himself to the Chamber requested that the interpellation should be postponed; a second message called forth the reply that his Highness was prepared to resign if his request for a postponement was not agreed to. In the meantime, violent scenes were taking place in the Chamber and in the lobbies, officers and adherents of the committee were intimidating members, revolvers being shewn though not made use of. A vote of want of confidence was passed, the minority supporting Kiamil Pasha only numbering eight. The Grand Vizier's action was represented as despotic and as savouring of the methods of Abdul Hamid, and some of the commanders of the war-ships offered their assistance to Parliament in case of necessity.

A curious incident in this connection was that in the evening I received messages from the committee to the effect that while they had opposed Kiamil for unconstitutional acts, they would withhold their support from any Ministry which might succeed him unless they pursued his policy of friendship for England. Needless to say, that there was nothing unconstitutional in Kiamil Pasha's action, and to describe such a man, who, during the reign of Abdul Hamid had repeatedly suffered for his liberal views, as unconstitutional was little short of folly. It was merely a trial of strength and a struggle for existence on the part of the committee. They were determined to maintain themselves in order to carry out their policy based on Turkish

as opposed to non-Turkish nationalist aspirations, and the contemplated appointment of Nazim Pasha as Minister of War to replace the then Minister without informing the latter of the step was a clear indication that Kiamil Pasha intended to put down committee politics among officers of the army and to tolerate no further trifling with his authority.

Kiamil Pasha had succeeded in uniting against himself three strong forces at the same time; the Chamber, by contesting its omnipotence; the army, by the distrust he was accused of showing towards the picked battalions of the IIIrd Army Corps by wishing to remove them from here, whither they had been sent by the orders of the committee; and the press, by the law introduced into Parliament, which is generally supposed to have been his work, but which was as a matter of fact drafted by Hilmi Pasha.

Hussein Hilmi was appointed Grand Vizier and his advent was well received, the action of his predecessor being described as tyrannical and the impression being given that he was endeavouring to restore His Majesty to the despotic position from which the revolution of July 1908 had thrown him.

Few dared to express the opinion that the Chamber had acted illogically and unconstitutionally, but many thought it.

With the idea of gratifying Great Britain, Rifaat Pasha was chosen as Minister for Foreign Affairs, otherwise most of the Ministers of Kiamil Pasha's Cabinet remained in office.

The Chamber during the early date of Hilmi Pasha's Ministry did not settle down to business, the only legislation actually concluded being the approval of the loan for £ T. 4,700,000 concluded in the previous September.

Generally Hilmi Pasha endeavoured to justify his position and humour the chauvinistic elements, and in this he was successful to the extent of ridding the country of the Macedonian gendarmerie officers (most of whom were, however, re-engaged for a reorganised Turkish gendarmerie), and in obtaining the dissolution of the Macedonian Financial Commission. The British, French, and Italian delegates, however, obtained employment at the Ministry of Finance. Kiamil Pasha himself remained in retirement, but some newspapers took up his defence with considerable vigour, especially the "Serbesti" and the English newspaper the "Levant Herald," and members of the committee loudly called for the expulsion of the latter's editor from Turkey, but no demand to that effect was officially made. Some little courage was given to Kiamil's adherents by the tone adopted by the European press, which, generally speaking, did not approve of the terrorist methods adopted by the committee. The general situation resulting from the recent change of Cabinet, however, gradually became one of universal uneasiness, coupled with the apprehension and fear that the outcome must be violent if not bloody. The volume of discontent, swelled by the Government officials who had been thrown out of employment, was increasing in extent and consistency, and everything pointed to an explosion which might be far-reaching and disastrous.

So much opposition was shown to the budget, and so little understanding of what a budget really meant, coupled with the fear of Parliament to leave the Government a free hand during the recess, that it was found necessary to prolong the session by three months. Several small mutinies took place here and at Adrianople, which had no special importance in themselves, but were an indication of the way the wind was blowing.

An incident occurred at the end of March involving a foreign Ambassador. A newspaper representing the committee published a violent attack on Kiamil Pasha, and not only accused his son of obtaining money irregularly through the position of his father, but also stated that in connection with the Heraclea mines, a foreign Ambassador had been promised 2,000,000 fr.

There could be no doubt as to the identity of the Ambassador, and my French colleague at once demanded that the committee should deny all responsibility, or that the Grand Vizier should compel them to withdraw it with suitable amends. Finally, M. Constans obtained some slight satisfaction, and left Constantinople shortly afterwards.

It was only on the 3rd of April that the opponents of the committee gave an indication that their opposition was supported by some sort of organisation. On that day was inaugurated the society called the Mahomedan Union. Under the guise of desiring to introduce some amelioration in the public morals of the country within the prescriptions of the Sheri law, it was no doubt intended to arouse a popular wave of religious fanaticism as a check on the policy of the committee, which, while

fully supporting the Moslem portion of the population, had given no indication of treating with due respect the religious elements, but many of its members flaunted in public their free-thinking convictions.

Undoubtedly this Mahomedan Union had been working upon the rank and file of the army, and on the night of the 12th of April, an order having been issued to the troops that they should have no dealings with Hodjas, and fire on them when commanded to do so, several officers of the Constantinople garrison were seized, and nearly all the regiments marched to Stamboul without officers, and demonstrated outside the Porte and Chamber, demanding the Sheri law coupled with the constitution. It was a curious and all but inexplicable fact that the mutineers were lead by the men of the battalions which the committee had sent to the capital from Salonica (whose officers had sworn to defend the constitution with their lives), and which Kiamil Pasha a couple of months previously had endeavoured to have sent away from Constantinople. Mahmoud Moukhtar Pasha commanded the few troops that remained loyal to the Government, but in spite of his request to be allowed to fire on the mutinous troops he was unable to obtain sanction; in my opinion a wise decision, for even had he been temporarily successful, the feeling at that moment was very strong, and the forces at the command of Mahmoud Moukhtar insufficient to deal permanently with the revolt.

The firing, a good deal of it of a bravado kind, continued throughout the day. The Minister of Justice and a deputy and many others were killed. At midnight the troops withdrew to their barracks, but no semblance of discipline was restored for some time. The Grand Vizier was forced to resign, and the Sultan pardoned the rebellious troops, which no doubt encouraged the public to regard the movement as a reactionary one. The same military forces that made the revolution of July 1908, created the counter-revolution of April 1909, led by the cry of Islam in danger; but it is a mistake to suppose that reaction was the object of the latter movement, which however was in a great measure supported by the fanatical Moslems, who really believed their religion was in danger, and these were assisted by those to whom the arbitrary methods of the Committee of Union and Progress had become distasteful. A colourless Cabinet was formed with Tewfik Pasha at its head. The panic, however, did not subside, and many of the prominent members of the Committee of Union and Progress considered it wiser to leave the country, and many sought refuge in foreign Embassies and on board of foreign stationnaires.

The IIIrd Army Corps of the Salonica district were determined, however, not to accept this coup, and it was decided to march on Constantinople, the Sultan being summoned to reinstate Hilmi Pasha as Grand Vizier within twelve hours, to reinstate Ahmed Riza the President of the Chamber, who had resigned and was hiding, and to punish by death the ringleaders of the movement.

The mobilisation of the advancing army was rapidly effected, and within a week some 12,000 were outside the walls of Constantinople; the IInd Army Corps at Adrianople having joined in the advance. A telegram was dispatched by Hussein Pasha from Dede-Agatch for communication to the foreign Embassies, declaring that the troops were marching on Constantinople to restore order, to punish the authors of the disturbance and to safeguard the constitution. Care was taken to avoid all mention of an intention to dethrone the Sultan. In the meantime the Parliament constituted as a National Assembly supported by the forces outside was sitting in secret session at San Stefano. The attitude of the fleet was considered doubtful and wild rumours, which did not tend to allay the ever increasing panic, to the effect that some of the vessels intended to bombard the town, were afloat. Every sort of story was disseminated to endeavour to prove that Abdul Hamid was the instigator of the movement of the 13th April, though it is only fair to state that from that day to this no particle of evidence has been forthcoming against His Majesty, and serious and unbiassed persons are convinced that however great may have been the faults of Abdul Hamid he had no hand in organising the movement, nor did he look upon it with favour. Whether or not he could have checked it is another matter. The history of his reign showed that in all dangerous and critical situations he always allowed matters to get beyond the safe stage, always apparently hoping that some incident might occur at the last moment and save him from disaster. It is also noticeable that during the days succeeding the outbreak of the 13th April the Sultan and all the civil and military authorities in Constantinople strained every nerve to calm the mutineers and prevent a conflict between them and the troops from Macedonia, and eventually to ensure the peaceful entry of the latter into the capital. On this occasion it was always expected that Nazim Pasha would be able to persuade the advancing army to

come to terms on the lines of the surrender of the guilty, but it soon became clear that Mahmoud Chefket, who commanded the Salonica army, would be unable or unwilling to keep his army outside the gates, and when Nazim Pasha was sent out to negotiate, as it were under a flag of truce, he was detained under various pretexts until the entry had been effected.

On the 24th April, at an early hour in the morning, the troops, which now numbered some 18,000, occupied several points of Stamboul, Pera, and Galata. Some resistance was offered, in some cases owing to a real fanatical movement against what the town troops regarded as a Christian army (Greeks and Bulgars of Macedonia having joined it), in others owing to a conviction that they had been deceived by the assurances that the entry was to be a peaceable one.

This conviction was strengthened by the fact that the Salonica army had actually been provided during this period, in which they camped outside the town, with tents and provisions from within.

Fighting lasted throughout the day, a great amount of damage being done to barracks and a considerable number of soldiers and softas being killed. The embassies and legations were guarded by troops of the invading army. No foreigners were killed with the exception of one Italian sailor.

The investment of the town by the Salonica troops was accompanied also by the occupation of the Sultan's palace of Yildiz, and a deputation of Parliament announced to His Majesty his deposition by Fetwa. At very short notice Abdul Hamid, who is reported to have received the announcement with great dignity, merely begging that his life and the lives of his children might be spared, was dispatched by train to Salonica, and on the same day (the 27th April) Rechad Effendi was proclaimed Sultan.

The solution thus brought about was perhaps inevitable. The thirty years' despotic reign of Abdul Hamid had aroused so much hatred and suspicion of him that few could bring themselves to believe that he could ever govern with constitutional spirit, and whatever ills came to the country had he been allowed to continue to reign, would inevitably be laid at his door. Once the troops left Salonica for Constantinople it was clear that in spite of all declarations to the contrary, they like bloodhounds on the track, would never be refused their prey. Dr. Nazim, of the committee, also stated that they expected to find in Yildiz treasure to the amount of 32,000,000*l.* Before his deposition Abdul Hamid declared to the Grand Vizier that he desired that a full and unbiassed enquiry should be held, so that he might establish his innocence before his people and the Powers of Europe. In view of the feeling in the country and the influence of the committee such an enquiry was however impossible.

No sooner Abdul Hamid dispatched than the punishment of those considered to be implicated in the events of the 13th April began, and all those found guilty by the court-martial were either publicly hanged or exiled, and the hunting down of softas and mutinous soldiers and suspects continued with unabated vigour.

Extreme simplicity marked the accession of the new Sultan under the title of Mehmed V, and his court was immediately composed of men known to be in complete sympathy with the committee. Colonel Ramzi Bey, of Salonica, and commander of the Salonica Battalion, who had headed the mutiny of the 13th April, was, curiously enough, appointed chief aide-de-camp to the new Sultan.

But the committee still refrained from accepting office, which appeared to suggest a certain consciousness that the strong measures of repression were repugnant to the Moslem religious sentiment, and they were unwilling to bear the brunt of its displeasure. An attempt which practically failed was made by Mahmoud Shevket to induce officers to refrain from taking part in politics.

A diligent search was made for the immense treasure that was said to be stored at Yildiz, but until now not more than about £ T. 1,500,000 has been found, and there can be little doubt but what a good deal disappeared in the confusion that reigned on the occasion of the occupation of the palace by the Salonica army. The bulk of this money has been devoted to military purposes.

Hilmi Pasha's new declaration of policy was marked by considerably more respect for the Sheri and of religious duty. He was considerably criticised for the events of the 13th April and the massacres of Adana which followed, some members declaring that on him lay the full responsibility, but with the support of the committee he obtained a good majority.

The Sultan in due course presented himself to Parliament, and made a declaration to the effect that he swore to respect in their entirety the law of the Sheriat and the constitution.

In June a leading member of the Commitee of Union and Progress, Javid Bey, eventually accepted office as Finance Minister, to be shortly followed by another member of the committee, Talaat Bey, as Minister of the Interior. Both these efforts inspired confidence, and were applauded even by those not in real sympathy with the committee.

Javid Bey belongs to the crypto-Jewish sect of Sebatai Sevi, who form the bulk of the population of Salonica. It was known at the time of the revolution in 1908 that these Jews of Salonica, many of whom belong to continental freemasonry, had assisted and partially inspired the Young Turks for the formation of whose secret organisation they had lent the shelter of the lodges. In fact the Salonica movement was Jewish and Turkish, no other Ottoman elements, *e.g.*, Bulgarian, Greek, &c., taking any active part in its preparation. The influence of the Jews in Young Turkey circles was consequently great, though not appearing on the surface. However, after the deposition of the ex-Sultan, who had set his face against unrestricted Jewish immigration with Zionist objects, the Jewish element began to show itself more openly, and papers advocating Zionist principles began to make their appearance in the capital. Heretofore, as is well known, the Jewish world has been divided into Zionists and Territorialists, *i.e.*, those who thought that, owing to the restrictions of the Hamidian régime, the best solution of the question of bettering the lot of their oppressed brethren in Russia, Roumania, &c., was Crown colonies in Uganda, the Argentine, &c. With the accomplishment of the overthrow of the old régime and the deposition of Abdul Hamid, these differences disappeared, and, as shown by the recent Zionist congress of Hamburg, where some 450 delegates from all parts of the world agreed to work on Zionist and non-assimilation lines, all the energies of Judaism are now concentrated on influencing the Young Turks with a view to the peaceful penetration of Palestine with the development of Mesopotamia thrown in as a sort of appanage. Some Ottoman Jews have deprecated openly working on Zionist lines, fearing that it may awaken in the Turk and Arab a very violent form of anti-Semitism, but they are in a minority. Javid Bey, whose secretary is a professing Jew, is undoubtedly the most influential member of the Turkish Government, while a co-religionist has been made chief of the press bureau, an exceedingly important post as long as the press is subject to martial law, and another Jew has been making determined attempts to be appointed chief of the municipality of Constantinople. The whole movement is, perhaps, one of the most interesting features of the Turkish revolution.

The Government were then, under pressure of the junior committee officers, induced to introduce a Bill for the revision of officers' ranks, in order to do away with the unlimited patronage system which prevailed under the old régime. Many prominent officers who had obtained high rank without the prescribed number of years' service, and for no special act deserving promotion, became the victims, and again much discontent was aroused; 27,000 officials had been erased from the pay list of the Government (though in many cases pensions were provided). The common soldiers were now called upon to indulge in constant drilling, to which they were not accustomed. The Armenians were incensed at the charges brought against them in connection with the Adana massacres; the Ottoman Greeks considered that they had been unfairly treated, and feared for their ancient privileges, and the Bulgars were vexed that no steps were being taken to settle the question of their churches and schools in Macedonia. All these factors served to increase the general dissatisfaction, and a feeling was rapidly gaining ground that the new system was not as efficacious as was expected, and, indeed, that the Government was lapsing into a chaotic condition, but the state of siege, which had been recently prolonged for eighteen months, closed all mouths.

The first session of Parliament closed on the 21st August, after sitting over eight months.

The latter part of the summer and autumn were marked by a period of calm; the Government attempted to attain some credit in the country and abroad by trying for a loan of £T. 7,000,000 without a regular guarantee, in order to prove how greatly the administration of the new régime had enhanced the credit of the country. The loan was eventually concluded with the Ottoman Bank, the English offer not having been found sufficiently attractive.

A further elimination of one of the men regarded as belonging to the old régime took place in the enforced resignation of Gabriel Effendi Nouradounghian, and he was succeeded by Halajian Effendi, a close ally of the committee.

An incident, of itself of little importance, but affording another instance of the

want of cohesion in governing circles took place at the *baisemain*, or the festival of Bairam. The President of the Chamber decreed that the deputies should not kiss the scarf representing the hem of the Sultan's robe. The military men present, however, followed the ancient usage and kissed the scarf. This promised to give rise to a lively newspaper discussion, but the Minister of the Interior issued a circular forbidding all further polemics on the subject. It has some importance, as showing a considerable divergence of opinion between the military and civil members of the committee.

Parliament met again on the 14th November, but, in spite of efforts made by certain members to form an organised party in opposition to the Committee of Union and Progress, which have taken some shape, the latter still remains supreme.

The Senate, which, during the first session, had almost effaced itself, has begun to show signs of independence by claiming the right of initiating legislation and of interpellating the Cabinet. Some indications were also observable in the early days of the session of a split in Government circles, which might bring about the fall of the Grand Vizier. These were translated into a fact by Hussein Hilmi's resignation on the 29th December on the ground of ill-health. What the real reasons for this step are have not yet transpired, but it has been evident for some months past that Hilmi Pasha has not given satisfaction to the majority of the committee, and accusations of culpable negligence in the matter of the Adana massacres, and the carrying out of the death sentence of so many Moslems, and the remission of the sentences against Armenians, have without doubt been important factors in bringing about his downfall.

To sum up the results of the year 1909. Those who expected a complete purging of the Augean stable, and who regarded the existence of a constitution and of a Parliament as a panacea for all ills, no doubt feel some disappointment at the results obtained. But a moment's reflection will show how vast were the changes that had to be made to bring about any good. Abdul Hamid's sole idea throughout his reign was to maintain himself on the throne and avoid a war at all risks. To this end he made use of bribery and corruption to such an extent that it permeated every department of the State and every individual. True it is that the net result of the year has not been much, for the Government, which has to a greater or less extent at different times been in the hands of the Committee of Union and Progress, has been fully occupied in keeping itself in power.

Of liberty of speech we have heard but little, for the Government soon found itself compelled to adopt many of the old methods of repression of Abdul Hamid.

In the matter of liberty of movement there has undoubtedly been considerable change, and people move about without such a rigorous application of the teskereh regulations.

Equality, so much spoken of in the early days of the revolution, remains a dead letter, and the doubts I expressed at that time as to the possibility of the lion and the lamb being able to lie down together remain. It is inconceivable that the Moslem, who is fully aware of his intellectual inferiority, will throw open in an equitable manner all the offices of State to all his fellow-countrymen, whether Turk, Greek, or Armenian. He feels that he has won the country with the sword, and proposes to endeavour to keep it with the sword.

A general nationalist feeling has permeated all ranks, amounting often to violent chauvinism, and a desire to throw off the yoke of the capitulations, and to rank in this respect as a European Power. However commendable this feeling may be, it cannot be said that sufficient evidence has been forthcoming of an improvement to justify the foreign Powers in considering the eventuality of such a change in the near future. Although some efforts have been made towards purging the courts of justice in the capital, nothing whatever has been done in the provinces. A marked improvement has been observed in the examination and granting of concessions and Government orders, but I should be unwilling to state that "baksheesh" has entirely disappeared from the parliamentary commissions and Government offices. Nor can it be expected, as long as the finances of the country do not admit of the salaries of Government employés being increased. Amongst the minor officials the pay is in most cases quite inadequate, and consequently must be supplemented by irregular means. There are, however, departments in which a marked improvement has been observable. Thanks to the untiring and able efforts of Mr. Crawford, the custom-house at Constantinople has not only shown a very notable increase in returns, but order has been introduced and complaints are comparatively rare, and when made are promptly and satisfactorily dealt with.

The navy, such as it is, has made great strides under the energetic management of Admiral Gamble and the fleet, which for many years had never left the Golden Horn, was able to make a long cruise in the summer without any untoward incident.

The Finance Department is certainly showing great signs of improvement, and Javid Bey, assisted by M. Laurent and the other foreign advisers, has put some order into the department, and regular budgets are now produced. A succession of good harvests would put a different complexion on the finances of the country. Large sums have been spent on the army, which, I understand, is now fairly well equipped, though discipline still leaves much to be desired.

Prominent Men in 1909.

In previous annual reports it has been the practice to give a short account of the new prominent men of the year. Revolutions, however, have a reputation for devouring their own children, and the year 1909 has thrown up but very few prominent men, while many who at the beginning of last year seemed destined to play an important rôle have faded away into the background. Moreover, in a movement brought about by a secret and impersonal body like the Committee of Union and Progress the most influential members are reluctant to put themselves forward. As might be expected with a military race like the Turkish, and owing to a revolution which has been and is in great part the work of the army, a few senior officers, like General Mahmoud Shevket Pasha and General Nazim Pasha, have come to the fore, while well-known civilians, like the ex-Grand Viziers Ferid Pasha, Kiamil Pasha, Said Pasha, and Hilmi Pasha, have disappeared from the scene.

General Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, who has just entered the new Cabinet as Minister of War, was perhaps the most striking figure during 1909, but he owes that position more to the accident of his being in command of the Salonica Army Corps at the time of the movement of the 13th April than to the possession of any exceptional qualities either as a soldier or a man.

He was born at Bagdad, where his grandfather had settled, and is over 50 years of age. He studied and resided in Germany, whither the ex-Sultan sent him on a mission to take delivery of war material which another Turkish officer was somewhat slow about accepting. He was then made keeper of an arms depôt in Yildiz, and Abdul Hamid promoted him at once to the rank of a general of division (first class). He was subsequently made Vali of Uscub, whence in the early days of the revolution he was transferred to Salonica as commandant of the IIIrd Army Corps. Being more than half Arab he is distinctly intelligent, and was in sympathy with the new movement in Turkey; but it is doubtful if he was an actual member of the committee, and he seems to have been to the younger committee officers what Hilmi Pasha was to the civil members of that organisation. In fact, he was practically a puppet in the hands of the junior officers, and followed their "instructions" on important points though bearing the high-sounding title of generalissimo. He speaks German well and French indifferently, and is, I believe, a good soldier, while as a man he is affable, sympathetic, and fair-minded. On the whole he has discharged his delicate duties as administrator of martial law with tact and impartiality, though in the eyes of the disaffected Moslems he is considered the possible scapegoat should the committee lose ground.

General Nazim Pasha is a somewhat different type, being rather the strict disciplinarian, the blunt and downright soldier, who inspires respect and confidence in the men. He is about 65 years of age; is the son-in-law of the well-known Grand Vizier, Aali Pasha, so prominent in the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz. He passed high out of the Turkish St. Cyr, and was pronounced by Von der Goltz Pasha on the latter's first visit to Turkey to be the most capable and promising of the then Turkish officers. He was attached to the Ottoman Mission at the Treaty of Berlin negotiations, but did not learn German. He was outspoken in his views under the old régime, and was exiled for seven years to Erzingan, in Armenia. In the beginning of 1909 Kiamil Pasha suddenly appointed him Minister of War, with the object of restoring discipline in the army, which had got into the way of dabbling in committee politics. The committee promptly responded by a counter coup, which resulted in the Grand Vizier's downfall, whereupon Nazim Pasha also resigned.

One of the demands of the troops who mutinied on the 13th April was that Nazim Pasha should be made Minister of War. The ex-Sultan, however, refused to accede to their request, on the ground that it was unconstitutional and because he did

not wish to see appointed a man who, in the eyes of the people, was identified with one of the two contending parties. Nazim Pasha was, however, made commandant of the mutinous garrison, and during the ten days preceding the entry of the Macedonian forces rendered enormous and invaluable service in restoring discipline and maintaining order among the 20,000 to 30,000 officerless troops forming the Constantinople Corps d'Armée. The extremists in the committee dubbed him a "reactionary" for so doing, and he consequently suffered a temporary eclipse. His marked personality could not long be ignored, and he has just been appointed Governor-General of Bagdad and commandant of the IInd Army Corps, having its head-quarters in that city. He has not, however, yet proceeded there, and many are desirous that he should remain in the capital, where his services would be invaluable in certain eventualities.

The new Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, is mentioned on p. 31 of the Annual Report of 1906. During 1909 he was for a short time Minister of the Interior and of Public Instruction, without adding to his reputation. The circumstances were, however, abnormal, and there are grounds for hoping that he will be more successful as Grand Vizier.

The outgoing Grand Vizier, Hilmi Pasha, is described in the Report of 1908 (p. 18). He was Minister of the Interior when the Adana trouble was brewing, and no light has ever been thrown on his action when the vali reported to him the seriousness of the situation and requested that measures should be taken to prevent an outbreak. He was Grand Vizier on the 13th April, and must be held responsible to a certain extent for the events of that day. He never enjoyed the confidence of the Committee of Union and Progress, against whom he sent reports to the Palace when he was inspector-general in Macedonia. His reappointment as Grand Vizier after the events of the 13th April has never been satisfactorily explained, and some hint that he knew more than was convenient and that it was safer to have him in office than in opposition. His exit from the grand vizierate was certainly graceful, and it would not be astonishing to see him again holding a portfolio under Hakki Pasha or another Grand Vizier.

Djavid and Talaat Beys are mentioned on p. 21 of the Annual Report of 1908. The former, who is the most influential member of the Cabinet, has been a success as Minister of Finance, but the second cannot yet be said to have made a good Minister of the Interior.

The president of the Chamber, Ahmed Riza Bey, played a considerable rôle at the time of the overthrow of Kiamil Pasha and Sultan Abdul Hamid, but has since wisely confined himself to the duties of his post as president of the Lower House. He was severely criticised for insisting on the Palace of Cheragan being used as a Parliament-house. He is also credited with encouraging certain chauvinistic tendencies and the dispatch of agents to other Moslem countries, while he ostentatiously worked in with the Persian anjumans when the latter were compassing the downfall of Mahomed Ali Shah.

Haladjian Effendi (p. 21 of 1908 Report), as Minister of Public Works, has shown himself to be an indefatigable worker, but so far without any salient results.

The Minister of Justice, Nejmeddin Mollah, who is under 50 and a Turk from the province of Castamouni, is the son of an ex-Sheikh-ul-Islam, ranks as an ulema, and wears the turban and costume of that calling. He is a man of fine presence, quick, intelligent, and well versed in law, but speaks no language but Turkish. If given time and a free hand there is but small doubt that he will succeed to a great extent in purifying the courts of justice. In the eyes, however, of the Young Turks he has the taint of the old régime, on account of his close connection in the past with several members of the old Palace clique. The inexplicable acquittal recently of the notorious Nejib Pasha Melhamé is partly attributed to the influence of Nejmeddin Mollah, with whom he was associated in the Yildiz bomb enquiry and other matters.

Among the deputies, Carrasso (p. 21 of Report of 1908) played an important though unobtrusive rôle in the events which culminated in the dethronement of Abdul Hamid, and also as the link between the Balkan and Young Turk Committees; while Sassoon, the Jewish deputy for Bagdad, showed considerable skill in engineering the opposition to the "affaire Lynch." Dr. Nazim, who rendered such signal services to the cause of the Committee of Union and Progress by propagating its ideas among the officers and men of the Smyrna and Konieh vilayets, in the disguise of a pedlar and dervish, during the months preceding the revolution in July 1908, has lately gained notoriety by his earnest advocacy of a settlement of the Macedonian question

by the wholesale importation into that country of Moslems from Bosnia and Jews from Roumania.

The press in 1908 appeared to contain men of considerable promise, but the new press law, administered by the court-martial, has acted as a strong curb, and the only present man of note is Hussein Djahid, the editor of the "Tanin," the committee organ. He is the intimate friend of Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, and seems to enjoy more latitude than his colleagues and rivals. His extremist and Radical views have given great offence to the orthodox Moslems—if not, indeed, to Greeks and other races; and in April last he enjoyed with Ahmed Riza Bey the unenviable distinction of being especially singled out by the populace for lynching. He is a man of undoubted courage and conviction, but seems singularly wanting in tact and common sense. Most people predict for him a violent end.

Ismail Kemal Bey, the Albanian deputy and leader of the so-called Opposition, is certainly a prominent figure, and is mentioned on p. 21 of Annual Report of 1908. He became the leader of the "Ahrar" party, and on the 13th April, 1909, took a prominent part in keeping the mutineers within moderate bounds. The committee accused him of being privy and accessory to the "reactionary" movement, and the Macedonian army "demanded his head." He thereupon fled the country, as under the ex-Sultan. Some abortive attempts were made by his adversaries to have him tried by default for high treason, but no real evidence was forthcoming, and after the reassembly of Parliament and when passions had cooled down he returned to Constantinople to resume his old rôle of heading the Opposition. He is a bad speaker, but writes well and is a man of fairly sound ideas. He also speaks French and Greek fluently, besides Albanian, his native tongue. He has the fearlessness and independence of his race, but languishes somewhat under the restraints of martial law. There is a reasonable presumption that had he not fled after the 13th April his adversaries would have had him hanged.

General Foreign Relations.

The earlier stages of the Constitutional Government in Turkey were marked by a distinct friendliness for Great Britain and a disposition to be guided by advice received from her. This is in a measure the reflex of Abdul Hamid's anti-English policy, and partly due to the fact that Kiamil Pasha, an ardent admirer of England, was Grand Vizier, but the prime movers of the constitutional movement really felt that of all those who applauded the initiation of the new régime, the applause of England was perhaps the most sincere. The fall of Kiamil Pasha was at first looked upon as a blow to British influence, but in view of the fact that Russia was regarded as the natural enemy of this country, that the soreness with Austria over the Bosnia and Herzegovina annexation was still very acute, that nothing had been done towards a final recognition of the independence of King Ferdinand, that Germany and France were looked upon with some suspicion as being anxious to exploit the country, Great Britain maintained her favourable position. The Government have throughout the year been successful in stifling any discussion of the questions of Egypt and Cyprus. Little credit has been accorded to Great Britain for her valuable assistance in bringing about a more or less favourable solution of the Austrian and Bulgarian questions. The Turks profess to believe that it was entirely the boycott that solved the former, and that it was the mobilisation of the Turkish army that brought Bulgaria to a more reasonable frame of mind regarding the latter. The general trend of Turkish foreign policy has been not to form any alliances with any foreign Power, but to declare the determination of this country to be on the best of terms with all the great Powers, while omitting to incur any obligations by the grant of any special favours.

Great Britain.

There is no doubt that perhaps the fulsome flattery that was poured upon Turkey by British statesmen of both parties and by the English press, encouraged many here to believe that Turkey could look to Great Britain not only for moral but for material assistance in case she required it. They did not realise that the admiration of the British public was prompted more by the worship of Parliamentary institutions and the academic sympathy for a country emancipating itself from tyranny than by any special love of Turkey and her people. This fact, however, was gradually borne in on them, and the first glow of affection which was so pronounced in the early days of the constitution showed signs of cooling as the year went by.

The appointment of Admiral Gamble as adviser in naval matters, the selection of Mr. Crawford for the reorganisation of the Customs, the nomination of Mr. Graves on the Financial Board of the Finance Department, and the engagement of certain English officers for the gendarmerie were pointed to as indications of a pro-British attitude. But the conditions imposed by His Majesty's Government for the increase of 4 per cent. on customs duties came as a disappointment to those who had exaggerated the benevolent and friendly attitude of England. The proposed fusion of the Lynch Company with the Turkish Navigation Company on the Tigris and Euphrates gave a great opportunity to the enemies of Great Britain to intrigue, and to argue that this constitutes an attempt on our part to obtain possession of Mesopotamia. Although on general lines the proposed amalgamation was supported by a large majority in Parliament, much harm has been done, many having believed the foolish stories put about to our disadvantage, and the matter is still under discussion. Our support of Russian protests against Turkish inroads into Persia has without doubt been displeasing to the Porte, and has only induced the Ottoman Government to give verbal assurances of withdrawal which I am convinced it has no intention of carrying out.

The want of satisfaction obtained in the matter of Crete is laid in great part at our door, it being considered that in this matter we lead the Powers, and could have obtained some modification of the breach of the *status quo* in the autumn of 1908 which would have gone far to satisfy public opinion here.

But if the government of this country remains in the hands of civilians there will be a marked tendency to remain in the best of terms with Great Britain. But with a weak Government, bending to every wind that blows, it will not be easy to obtain satisfaction, even in our most legitimate demands. Should the Government, however, pass into the hands of the military, it is to be expected that German sentiment, which not unnaturally pervades the army, will to some extent make itself felt.

The principle that guided His Majesty's Government in the two great political questions affecting Turkey was that in any division of the treaty of Berlin which frees other Powers or States from particular obligations, Turkey should receive full compensation and be adequately safeguarded. Although the idea of a conference was finally abandoned our insistence on the above-named principle certainly produced a result as favourable as possible to Turkey, and our influence was invaluable in the interests of peace. It is to be regretted that so far Turkish gratitude has taken no practical shape.

Germany.

Although the German Ambassador immediately after the fall of Abdul Hamid paid considerable court to the Committee of Union and Progress, his disappointment at perhaps the modest amount of sympathy extended to him and at the failure of the new régime to accomplish anything, became very marked, and now Baron Marschall's criticisms of the Government and the committee are very severe. The German Ambassador has not been on terms of any special friendship with the Grand Viziers of the new régime, and the only indications of favour towards Germany have been the temporary employment of General von der Goltz and the continuance of the policy of granting all orders to that country, both of these being most natural considering the lines on which the army of Turkey has been framed.

The somewhat lukewarm support given to Austria here by Baron Marschall was much commented on, and gave rise to the idea that in this matter he was not in complete harmony with the views of his Government.

Austria.

The beginning of the year 1909 found Turkey in a condition of great excitement against Austria-Hungary owing to the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the refusal in her part to pay any compensation; the boycott of Austrian goods and shipping had reached a point which threatened seriously to affect the interests of both countries, but no Turks contemplated the possibility of a rupture of relations. It subsequently transpired that Austria was prevented from sending a fleet into Turkish waters to put a stop on the boycott owing to the presence of some units of the British fleet at Marmarice.

Repeated representations were made by the Austrian Ambassador against the boycott, but were usually met by assurances that the Ottoman Government would prevent any hostile demonstrations or interference with Austrian vessels, but that

private individuals were at liberty to do as they pleased; whether orders were or were not given by the Government, the boycott was maintained and it was only on Baron d'Aehrenthal's acceptance of the principle of compensation that the boycott showed any signs of diminishing. The attitude assumed throughout this stage by His Majesty's Government was to encourage Austria and Turkey to come to terms directly as to the amount of the indemnity to be paid. Having overcome the opposition offered by Hungary, Baron von Aehrenthal offered to Turkey the sum of £T. 2,500,000, and negotiations were begun on this basis. A protocol was signed under which Austria-Hungary renounced all the rights enjoyed in the sanjak of Novi Bazar; Turkey recognised the new political status of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Rights of emigration and liberty of worship were secured to Moslems, and the above-mentioned sum was to be paid to Turkey. Further, Austria undertook, within two years, to sign a commercial treaty to be put into force on the condition of treaties with other Powers being equally put into force, and Austria-Hungary consented to the increase of 4 per cent. in the customs duties provided similar treatment was imposed on other Powers. Austria with a like proviso agreed to the abolition of the Austrian post-offices, and undertook to assist Turkey in securing the abolition of the capitulations. Immediately after the signature of this protocol, the boycott ceased.

Relations between the two Powers then rapidly improved, the final conditions of the protocol being quoted as evidence that Austria was now the firm friend of the new régime in Turkey, but from time to time rumours were set afloat of a possible agreement between Austria and Bulgaria under which Austria would advance to Salonica while Bulgaria would occupy Macedonia, but no evidence of a desire on the part of Austria to disturb further the *status quo* in the Near East has been forthcoming.

France.

Although enthusiastic expressions of friendship and admiration were poured upon France by the prime movers of the new régime, there was an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the late French Ambassador and the methods adopted by him and his Government with regard to financial operations and the obtaining of concessions, the Young Turks declaring that France had taken advantage of her somewhat privileged position in connection with the Ottoman Bank to drive hard bargains with this country, and whilst M. Constans openly applauded the actions of the leaders of the constitutional movement, his language in private was of a very different kind. He left shortly after some thinly veiled accusations were made against him in public. As is recorded in another report, it was hoped that his successor would be more likely to work in harmony with ourselves, but up till now the indications of any special desire to do so have not been very marked, possibly owing to a certain soreness caused by the competition of Sir Ernest Cassel and the National Bank. M. Bompard has made for himself a certain position, and French citizens have obtained a concession for the Homs-Damascus Railway and are said to be on the point of concluding one for the Panderma line. When in the autumn of last year the Ottoman Government were endeavouring to obtain a loan, it was hoped by them that they would be able to free themselves from the fetter of French finance. Sir Earnest Cassel, after an attempt to work with the Ottoman Bank which met with what almost amounted to a rebuff, made an unacceptable offer and again the Ottoman Bank was able to secure the loan, and the representatives of French finance now believe that they have still further secured their privileged position, and on the next occasion will decline to offer such advantageous terms.

In the Cretan question M. Bompard has acted in complete accord with the representatives of the protecting Powers. In the Bulgarian question, the French Embassy assumed the position that the sum demanded from Bulgaria was beyond her financial capacity.

Not unnaturally the French Government showed great anxiety to have some control in financial matters, and M. Laurent was appointed at a very large salary. Apart from this, two other Frenchmen have been appointed, M. Steeg, who was on the Macedonian financial commission, and M. Joly. M. Laurent has been a good deal criticised, and does not appear to be able to exercise much influence.

Italy.

The relations between Turkey and Italy have remained normal, and the advice tendered to the Turkish Government seems to have been uniformly good. The

Ambassador acted in complete harmony with the representatives of the other protecting Powers with regard to Crete.

On the proposal of the increase of 4 per cent., Italy put forward a demand for the settlement, or, at least, for the submission of the Italian claims to arbitration, but the demand was met somewhat coldly, and the matter has not recently been pursued.

Russia.

The position of Russia here during the latter part of the year may be said to have distinctly improved. The fact that Kiamil Pasha has disappeared from office has materially assisted her, for his Highness has always entertained the deepest suspicion of Russia's policy towards this country. Latterly the new Ambassador has thrown himself heart and soul into the new movement, and loses no opportunity of flattering its leaders and holding out hopes of the abolition of the capitulations, but many suspect that these friendly protestations cover some design for obtaining the exclusive right of the passage of the straits by Russian men-of-war, a proposition which is viewed with the greatest suspicion by all parties here, and Turks recall the professed friendship of General Ignatieff.

What was considered to be a surrender to Germany over the Servian question did not increase the awe of these people for Russia, and they consider that for many years to come she need not be regarded as a menace. In the late summer, the Russian Ambassador held out great hopes to Turkey that the Czar would pass through the Straits from Livadia and would visit the Sultan, and when the plan fell through there was an impression that the visit was abandoned owing to the objections of the Russian public.

The action of the Russian Government in putting forward its proposal for finding the money for the payment of the indemnity by Bulgaria for Eastern Roumelia was not in the eyes of the Turks regarded as an act of generosity, as they suspected that Bulgaria would in the future become subservient to Russia, and, moreover, that Bulgaria would by this operation be so little weakened financially as to remain a standing menace to Turkey. Nor did the fact that Russia was the first to recognise Prince Ferdinand as an independent Sovereign encourage Turkey to look upon Russia as a very friendly neighbour.

Greece.

The main question between Turkey and Greece during the year 1909 has been that of Crete. After the revolution of July 1908, the influence of the Powers succeeded in keeping the question in the back-ground, and this policy was supported very strongly by Kiamil Pasha who was already burdened with the questions of Bosnia and Bulgaria. The Turkish view was that this should be left for discussion at the conference which in the early part of the year seemed to have some chance of being assembled, and the Turkish Government promised to submit a solution for the consideration of the Powers.

The Greeks had obtained considerable encouragement from M. Clemenceau who had practically promised Greece that the island would be annexed.

It was said, and I believe with truth, that M. Clemenceau was encouraged in this by a conversation he had with Ahmed Riza the President of the Chamber, who declared that Turkey attached no importance to Crete. If this is so, he had but little foresight as to the feelings of his countrymen.

In March definite statements were made here that nothing in the nature of a union of the island with Greece would be tolerated, and the Turkish Government expressed the hope that the foreign troops would not be withdrawn. Feeling was fast gaining ground here, whereas, in the matter of Bosnia and Eastern Roumelia, Turkey in her unprepared condition had been compelled to give way, yet as regards Greece, a surrender was out of the question, and the possible eventuality of a war with Greece was welcomed as a means of showing that a successful conflict with that country was as possible under the new régime as under the Hamidian régime.

In June a duplicate request was made by the Sublime Porte that the troops of occupation should not be withdrawn, and it was suggested that some declaration should be obtained from Greece and Crete that no annexation should take place. In the Turkish view the proposed presence of men-of-war would be ineffectual. The Porte vaguely hinted at the suggestion for settling the question on the lines of the Lebanon, but nothing definite was forthcoming. The question was rapidly getting

involved in internal politics here; the representatives of the new régime were beginning to feel that their existence depended on a satisfactory solution of this question, and general tendencies were observable of a desire for satisfaction from Greece by the arbitrament of arms. On the 21st June, the Porte addressed a written protest to the Powers and suggested the discussion of an autonomous administration for the island. In the meantime, meetings of protest were held throughout the Empire, partly genuine, and partly organised with a view to distracting public opinion from the unsatisfactory condition of internal affairs. At the end of June a fresh verbal protest was made to the Powers against the concession granted to the Cretans which were a manifest infraction of Turkish sovereignty, and repeated requests followed that the troops should be removed.

The protecting Powers eventually decided to withdraw their troops on the 26th July, and to leave each a man-of-war to protect the Turkish flag and the Moslem population in case of necessity. A communication to this effect was made to the Ottoman Government in which it was declared that the "supreme rights" of the Sultan in the island would be assured by the presence of the vessels and that as this could not be considered as a definite solution, the Powers would continue to occupy themselves *avec bienveillance* with Crete. Some comments were made by the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, but on the whole it was fairly well received in the country and in the note replying to the communication a hit was made at the Greek Government which "had been mixed in the administration of the island in a manner manifestly in violation of the rights of the Porte." A tentative proposal had been put forward by the Grand Vizier to the effect that a Turkish man-of-war should join those of the other Powers in Crete, but this suggestion met with no encouragement.

The departure of the troops took place without any incident, but the hoisting of the Greek flag on the port after the departure much disturbed the Government here who protested against this provocative action.

The Greek Minister throughout always maintained that the attitude of his Government was most correct and protested against any blame being thrown upon it. This fresh incident again aroused the Turkish feeling, the people and press again declaring that the Cretans would never have dared to act in that manner without encouragement from Athens, and the war-like tendencies became very pronounced.

The Powers being rather slow in obtaining the removal of the objectionable flag, the Turkish Government hinted that they might have to take steps to do it themselves, and it was insinuated that the Ottoman fleet might be despatched to Karpathos, and that Greece must be held responsible for the flag incident as Greek officers were present. The Porte had to be reminded that Crete was *en dépôt* of the Protecting Powers and that the flag incident was being dealt with. It was, therefore, for Turkey to address the Powers and not Greece with regard to Cretan matters. A communication had, however, been made by Turkey to Greece calling attention to certain grievances with regard to Macedonia and asking the Greek Government to disavow the movement in Crete in favour of annexation. The Greek Government replied to the effect that Crete being *en dépôt* in the hands of the Powers, the Greek Government would abide by their decision, and added that, she being in no way implicated in an annexationist movement, she would continue to observe the same attitude in the future as in the past.

On the 13th August the representatives of the protecting Powers here, on instructions from their Governments, assured the Porte that the obnoxious flag would be withdrawn, and at the same time requested that orders should be issued that the Turkish fleet should not proceed to Cretan waters.

On the 18th August the flag-mast on which had been hoisted the objectionable flag was destroyed before daybreak without incident. Of this the Porte was verbally informed by the four embassies here at the same time as it was also reminded that Turkey had no right to address communications direct to Greece regarding Crete, and as regards Macedonia, the attention of the Porte was called to the fact that this was a matter of European interest, and that the four Powers trusted that it would not be used as a *casus belli* without the grievances of the Porte being previously laid before the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. To this communication a reply was sent by the Porte denying any warlike intentions or any desire to discuss the Cretan question with Greece, and declaring that they had merely wished to give that country an opportunity of removing any misunderstanding as to Greek action in Crete. The Porte thanked the Powers for the settlement of the flag incident, and called attention to the other violations of the *status quo*. It concluded

by stating that the Treaty of Berlin contemplated the question of reforms in Macedonia, and these had been solved by the establishment of the new régime. The Turkish Government, as an independent State, claimed the right to call attention to any action of Greek subjects within the territory of the former.

No notice was taken of this note.

Meanwhile the Porte, not satisfied with the Greek reply, had addressed a further and somewhat minatory communication to the Greek Government, to which the latter replied on the 18th August to the effect that it was the condition of prolonged state of anarchy in Macedonia that had given rise to misunderstandings, and that the Greek Government had by its recent action endeavoured to facilitate the task of the Ottoman Government. That as regards Crete, Greece would abide by the decisions of the four Powers. The note was regarded as satisfactory by the Porte, though some objection was felt to the use of the word "anarchy."

A proposal was put forward by the Ambassadors of the four Powers at Constantinople to the effect that the questions of postage stamps, Greek officers in Cretan gendarmerie and militia should be dealt with at once, but the proposal did not meet with favour with the Powers in view of the feeling existing between Turkey and Greece.

A fresh proposal was put forward early in September by Rifaat Pasha for a final solution of the question, but it was coldly received by the Powers, and it was not till November that the Government presented through their representatives abroad a communication recording the grievances against Crete and formulating certain complaints against the Greek Government, and in view of the military preparations in Greece and the firm determination of this country to maintain its sovereign rights in Crete without the interference of a third party, the note demanded that a definite solution should be arrived at shaped on autonomy under the sovereignty of the Sultan.

After a consultation amongst the Powers interested, a reply was sent to the Porte, pointing out that the breaches of the *status quo* which had occurred since the withdrawal of the troops had been promptly dealt with and would, in the event of further breaches arising, be as promptly rectified. In fact, they considered the raising of the question at that moment to constitute a danger. This was the position of affairs at the end of the year, the principal danger looming in the distance being that the Cretans would attempt to send deputies to the Greek Parliament and that the Government, in the face of public opinion, would be unable to prevent it.

Crete was thus the main subject which throughout the year had caused ill-feeling between the Ottoman and Hellenic Governments.

Sentiment more than interest was the moving factor on both sides, though there can be little doubt that a strong feeling exists in this country that while there is no desire for, or likelihood of the Turks ever reoccupying the island, it is essential for Turkey, if she is to retain her African possessions, that she should in case of necessity be able to make use of Suda Bay. Moreover, in a firm attitude over Crete, those responsible for the new régime saw a means of rehabilitating themselves after the blows struck at constitutional Government by the loss of Bosnia and Eastern Roumelia. To give way to Greece and admit the annexation or even the sale of the island would have been too valuable a weapon for the reactionaries.

Generally speaking, it may be taken that when relations with Bulgaria are strained, those with Greece are good, and *vice versâ*, but the suggestions which have from time to time been put forward in the direction of an *entente* with Greece have been but coldly received here. Whether they were ever put forward very seriously seems open to doubt. It must be the policy of Greece to avoid at all hazards that Salonica should fall into the hands of Bulgaria, and she no doubt has personal ambitions in that direction. The chance of Bulgaria coming down on Salonica might possibly drive Greece back into the arms of Turkey and induce her to conclude an alliance to defeat Bulgarian ambitions.

News received during the last days of the year of the intended purchase by Greece of a powerful cruiser has not tended to improve relations between these two Powers, and Turkey is likely to make every effort to bring up her fleet to a condition to enable her successfully to cope with the Hellenic fleet.

Buglaria.

The relations between Turkey and Bulgaria in 1909 have never been good, and, indeed, at times have been so strained as to be near snapping-point. The end of the

year 1908 had seen the practical failure of the Liaptcheff Mission sent to Constantinople to arrange the conditions on which the independence of Bulgaria should obtain recognition; 4,000,000*l.* was the maximum sum that Bulgaria seemed prepared to pay, and it was clearly intimated that that country preferred war to exceeding that figure. A consideration of the question by the Powers generally produced the opinion that 4,000,000*l.* was the maximum Bulgaria could pay, while Great Britain thought that Turkey was entitled to 5,000,000*l.* Turkey, in a tentative manner, suggested that the difference in the amount of compensation which Bulgaria was willing to pay and that which Turkey was willing to receive should be made up for by a slight rectification of the frontier which the Ottoman Government declared had no strategic interest, but was merely intended as an assistance for the communications of some Turkish villages with Adrianople. The Bulgarian Government, however, took a different view and immediately mobilised two divisions, and strong hints came from Bulgaria that that country was being rapidly driven to war.

Then came M. Isvolsky's proposal that Russia should make good the difference between the amounts offered and demanded. Of the remaining annual instalments of the Turkish indemnity due to Russia in respect of the war of 1878, it was suggested that a sufficient number should be cancelled to enable Turkey to raise a loan equivalent to the amount demanded of Bulgaria, that State undertaking as its portion of the negotiation to refund Russia the sum of 3,280,000*l.* Bulgaria accepted the proposal with enthusiam, while Turkey showed some scepticism, fearing that Bulgaria by thus placing herself under a heavy obligation to Russia would become entirely subservient to her, and also would be so little weakened financially that she would continue to be a standing menace to this country. The British Government strongly urged Turkey to accept, and, after some hesitation, the latter Government came forward with a counter-proposal to the effect that Russia should relinquish all the remaining instalments of the war indemnity; Turkey waiving in return all her claims in Bulgaria. But the Russian proposal was not in fact rejected. The reception of the proposal by Turkey was so far considered satisfactory that the Bulgarian Government decided to disband the reserves recently called up.

A fresh complication now arose. Prince Ferdinand announced his intention of assisting at the funeral ceremony of the Grand Duke Vladimir and the Russian Government were forced to receive him as an independent Sovereign, while withholding their formal recognition. In March Rifaat Pasha, recently appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, proceeded to St. Petersburgh to conclude the arrangements connected with M. Isvolsky's proposal, and on the 16th March a protocol was signed *ad referendum* on the following lines:—

1. Forty instalments of the war indemnity remitted to enable Turkey to realise a sum of money of 125,000,000 fr.

2. Option granted to Turkey under certain conditions to capitalise the remaining instalments at the rate of 4 per cent.

3. Of the 125,000,000 fr., 40,000,000 fr. represent the Eastern Roumelian tribute, 40,000,000 fr. to the Oriental Railway in Bulgaria, 2,000,000 fr. the Bellova Vakarel Railway, and 43,000,000 fr. the value of the Ottoman State domains in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria. The Ottoman Government to renounce all rights to the Bulgarian tribute and the Bulgarian share of the Ottoman public debt, and to the arrears of the Eastern Roumelian tribute since the 5th October, 1908.

Two declarations provided that, on the settlement of certain outstanding questions with Bulgaria, Turkey would recognise the new political status of that country, while Russia made her remission of the instalments dependent on such recognition.

M. Liaptcheff came to Constantinople to settle these outstanding questions, which comprised sanitary administration, lighthouses, and vakouf properties. Rifaat Pasha was still anxious to obtain an engagement that the question of the recognition of independence should be submitted to a conference before Turkey agreed, but it was made clear to the Turkish Government that a conference would not be forced on the Powers.

The well known events in Constantinople of the 13th April encouraged the Bulgarian Government to put on the screw, and M. Liaptcheff threatened to leave unless recognition were granted within three or four days. M. Liaptcheff rather unreasonably demanded that the Turkish Government should agree to recognise the independence without waiting for the ratification of the protocol settling the points

in dispute. This was eventually got over by the acceptance of a suggestion on my part that Rifaat Pasha should engage in the presence of the British, Russian, and French Ambassadors to submit at once the protocol to Parliament.

By article 8 the Ottoman Government recognised the new order of things in Bulgaria; Parliament passed the protocol, and the other Powers promptly followed suit in recognising the new Sovereign. Some hesitation was, however, shown by the Turkish Government in accepting the title of "King of the Bulgarians" selected by himself, arguing that it implied the existence of some future intention of ruling the Bulgarians in Macedonia, and might encourage the latter in hopes and aspirations which it was most undesirable should exist.

M. Liaptcheff remained some time in Constantinople endeavouring to arrive at a solution of the railway question, into the details of which it is unnecessary to go here, but an agreement was at length arrived at.

An annex to the Turco-Bulgarian protocol dealing with the Vakoufs and Muftis was duly signed, and the ratifications of the protocol were exchanged on the 19th May.

Towards the end of July a deputation of fifty-seven Bulgarian officers came to Constantinople and were entertained by the Turkish officers, and cries of "L'alliance bulgare avec la Turquie" were general, though no other indication of such an alliance has been manifested, and I cannot but think that the great professions of sympathy lacked sincerity. Indeed, I am not convinced that Turkey has for the moment any definite policy with regard to Bulgaria. It is hardly to be expected that Turkey, still smarting under the sting of the declaration of Bulgarian independence, should rush into the latter's arms unless some other danger threatened. Bulgarian aspirations in Macedonia are regarded here as the key-note of her policy, aspirations which Turkey believe Bulgaria will never abandon without a show of strength. Both appear to be resting on their oars. Bulgaria expecting a breakdown of the new régime in Turkey; Turkey hoping that in time her army may become sufficiently strong, not in order to enable her to recover Eastern Roumelia, but to make it possible for her to prevent all interference with her government in Macedonia.

Whether the policy now being pursued by Turkey in Macedonia, namely, the suppression of the Bulgarian constitutional clubs, and the support given to such an unmitigated ruffian as Sandansky, is a sound one or not remains to be seen. But the view of the Turkish Government is that Sandansky and his allies represented the cry of Macedonia for the Macedonians, and had no separatist aims, while the clubs were known to nurse ideas of an eventual union with Bulgaria.

In this short sketch of Turco-Bulgarian relations, I have omitted to refer to an agreement said to have been concluded between King Ferdinand (then Prince Ferdinand) and the Russian Government. This arrangement was reported by me on the strength of information categorically given me by the Grand Vizier, Hilmi Pasha, but as it has received, I believe, no confirmation from any other quarter it should perhaps not be taken too seriously.

The main conditions of this agreement were the following:—

1. The independence of Bulgaria guaranteed by Russia.

2. Russia undertook to see that no modification was made of Bulgarian ecclesiastical interests, and of her influence over her co-religionists in Macedonia.

3. No war against Turkey or any neighbour State would be engaged upon by Bulgaria without Russia's previous consent.

4. Russia would, in the event of a success of Bulgaria over Turkey, support her claim for territorial compensation.

It is quite possible that the arrangement was signed, but did not eventually receive confirmation by the Bulgarian Government.

Turco-Persian Frontier.

Unless the evident determination of Turkey not to give up Pasveh in the Solduz district, and probably also to retain practically all those parts of the contested zone which they now occupy is to be considered as progress, no advance has been made towards the settlement of this question.

The Mixed Commission at Urumia, which has never been officially dissolved did not resume its labours, and no results have been obtained from the appointment in October 1908 of the special committee at the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which was to examine the merits of the case. The Turkish Ministry especially in

the early part of the year made profuse professions of its desire to settle the question in a spirit of equity, but as a matter of fact the past twelve months have witnessed nothing but a succession of efforts on the part of Turkey by various means such as Kurdish raids, military occupation on the pretext of protecting Ottoman officials and subjects, intimidation intended to drive Persian tribes into soliciting Ottoman nationality, distribution of Turkish passports, &c., to fortify their claims not merely in the contested zone, but also over territory admittedly Persian, efforts which have been regularly succeeded by protests from Persia nearly always ineffectual even when supported by the representations of Great Britain and Russia.

In January the state of semi-civil war in Azerbaijan between the Kurdish adherents of the Shah and the Nationalist fedais afforded a good opportunity for interference, and a party of volunteers from Erzeroum and Van under the leadership of two "Young Turks," Nadji Bey and Halil Effendi, acting apparently on orders from the Committee of Union and Progress, started with a small contingent of rifles to the relief of the Persian Nationalists at Khoi, while in March Turkish gendarmes appeared at Miandek near Urumia, and began to distribute passports to those who might wish to purchase immunity from persecution and plunder by adopting Turkish nationality. How far these proceedings were officially authorised from Constantinople does not appear, but the Porte evidently had an uneasy conscience, for in April the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires was instructed to inform His Majesty's Government that as soon as order should be restored in Persia, the sittings of the joint frontier commission would be renewed, and that in event of failure to reach an agreement, the mediation of Great Britain would be sought.

In June there were more serious developments. The continued disorder, and an attack at Dilman on the Ottoman consul for Khoi, gave a fair pretext for the dispatch of Turkish troops across the frontier, and three villages in the Salmas district were occupied; at Urumia also a detachment was pushed up close to the town, and the acting Turkish consul, the notorious Peter (Bedros) Ellul (who is "wanted" by the police of British Columbia on numerous charges of swindling) showed great activity in endeavouring by the familiar methods to induce the native Persians to accept Turkish nationality. Further south, too, according to Persian information, an Ottoman custom-house was established at Soujboulak, and military measures were being actively taken. The Persian Embassy made energetic protest, to which the Grand Vizier gave the usual reply as to the necessity of protecting Turkish subjects, &c., and as a sop, offered probably because the Porte was anxious to avoid representations from the British and Russian Embassies, the Turkish Kurds were ordered to withdraw from the vicinity of Soujboulak.

It was by now abundantly clear that the action of the Turkish frontier authorities was no longer merely directed by irresponsible members of the Committee of Union and Progress, but was in general the result of orders from the Government itself. For some little time public opinion and the press had been seriously annoyed and alarmed by the presence of Russian troops in Azerbaijan, in Ghilan and at Kazvin, and there existed also a widespread if sincere misapprehension of the effect of the joint action of Great Britain and Russia on the struggle between the Shah and the Nationalists in Persia. The Government's appreciation of the situation was probably not very dissimilar and in sending detachments of troops to occupy various places across the frontier they saw the means of killing two birds with one stone, viz., giving support to the Nationalists with whom they naturally sympathised, and placing themselves in a position to bargain with Russia for the simultaneous withdrawal of their respective troops, while of course they counted also on strengthening their claims in the frontier question. At the same time they had no wish to alarm the neighbouring Powers and soothing explanations were given to explain the presence of the Turkish detachments at Urumia and Khoi and elsewhere in the Salmas district, and strict injunctions were sent to Ellul to refrain from taking any part in local politics.

On the other hand a full battalion was sent on the 20th June to Urumia, and two companies of infantry were pushed up to the frontier from Van.

The Russian Government not unnaturally took a serious view of these proceedings, and on the 8th July Count Benckendorff was instructed to invite His Majesty's Government to make joint representations at Constantinople, and on the 13th the Russian Chargé d'Affaires and I handed in almost identical memoranda to the Porte inviting the Ottoman Government, *inter alia*, to withdraw their troops from territory incontestably Persian. This joint *démarche* produced a considerable impression, and two days later I was able to report that the Porte had no designs of

territorial aggrandisement, and no intention of doing more than protect its subjects, and that a commission would be sent to enquire into the complaints against Ellul. Early in August the Ottoman troops evacuated some of the villages in the Urumia districts and retired to positions nearer the disputed zone, and shortly afterwards the vali of Van left to carry out the promised investigations at Urumia.

By a curious coincidence on the very day of the Anglo-Russian communications to the Porte, the President of the Chamber of Deputies took the unusual step of writing to me to call my attention, "in the interests of the good relations between Turkey and Great Britain," to the manner in which Anglo-Russian intervention in the internal affairs of Persia was interpreted in Turkey, viz., as being intended to support the despotic rule of the Shah. I contented myself with a simple acknowledgment of the letter, but was subsequently instructed to explain to Ahmed Riza that this view was not borne out by facts.

On the 17th July the Shah took refuge in the Russian Legation.

In December news was received of a fresh advance of the Turkish forces practically all along the contested frontier, for two regiments with four guns appeared in the districts of Somai, Baradost, Tergaver, Dasht and Mergaver and in the Solduz district the Turkish commander at Pasveh demanded the withdrawal of a small Persian contingent from Mamediar, and to back his request had dispatched 200 infantry with two guns to occupy Mamache and Inagade. The exact pretexts for these further encroachments are obscure, but they seem to have been furnished by three incidents involving collisions between Persians and Turkish forces in which the latter according to the Persian account were the aggressors. The Russian Government was at first disposed to make joint representations at Constantinople, but on learning that the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressly stated to Sir G. Barclay that he did not then require our support, they yielded to M. Tcharykow's opinion that this step would be premature, shortly afterwards Tewfik Pasha in London stated that the Ottoman commander in the Solduz district had received strict orders to act only on the defensive.

Later in the month M. Isvolsky thought that he detected in Turkhan Pasha's language indications that Turkey might be willing to accept the mediation of Great Britain and Russia to settle the frontier question and at his request His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople was instructed to support any representations which the Russian Embassy might make towards offering our good offices. M. Tcharykow, however, who had already shown a curious indifference towards the frontier question was very reluctant to make any move. He argued that Turkhan Pasha's allusion to mediation was not distinct enough to urge our good offices on the Turks, that he was convinced that the offer would be refused, and that as the Turks seemed ready to re-open negotiations with the Persians by means of a joint commission, action on our part would be premature till direct negotiation had proved ineffectual, and M. Isvolsky has so far yielded to his arguments as to limit the representations to be made here to a suggestion that the Ottoman troops should be withdrawn from Solduz. Owing however to the Ministerial crisis no action could be taken before the end of the year.

Meantime the desperate protests of the Persian Ambassador have received the scantiest attention, and his Highness's position has become so difficult that he has requested his Government to recall him.

To complete the record of endeavours made this year to settle this question, it should be added that when Rifaat Pasha visited St. Petersburgh in March in connection with the Turco-Bulgarian question, M. Isvolsky at first desired to include in the agreement an undertaking on the part of Turkey to secure the formal admission of the good offices of Great Britain and Russia, but as Rifaat Pasha deprecated the suggestion, the point was dropped.

Finance.

From the very first the Young Turks have realised the capital importance of setting the finances of the Empire on a sound basis, and under the able and energetic administration of Djavid Bey, the youthful Minister of Finance, assisted by M. Charles Laurent, the French adviser, whose services were acquired in the autumn of 1908, remarkable progress has been made in that direction. The system under the old régime was the negation of financial administration. For years no budget had been published, and although something of the kind was usually prepared, it had no practical value, for no attempt was made to restrict expenditure to the limits assigned

to any department, and a Minister who admitted his inability to find money for any of the thousand purposes of the Palace was looked upon as a traitor meriting the severest punishment. Practically all that was known was that there was an ever-increasing annual deficit, estimated as long ago as 1897 at some £T. 3,500,000, which was met partly by the simple method of not paying, and partly by loans and advances, so that at the present date there is a large floating debt amounting, it is believed, to some £T 25,000,000.

The task of the constitutional Government was therefore no easy one, but it has been attacked by the Minister of Finance with fidelity, honesty and energy, and he has received loyal support from his colleagues and the Chamber. The Ministry of Finance has been to a large extent reorganised, an audit office on the model of the French "Cour des Comptes" has been established, and stringent laws have been passed to prevent the spending departments from exceeding their credits without due sanction, and to render it impossible for moneys to be diverted from the purposes for which they were voted. In other departments numbers of useless and superfluous officials have been dismissed and the pay-sheets largely reduced. A law has been enacted regulating the number of the staff and their remuneration in accordance with the exigences of the public service, and fixing the age (65) at which compulsory retirement is to take effect. Economy, in fact, has been the order of the day, but at the same time reforms in the selection of employés and in the better control and regularity in the collection of revenue have already produced results. Receipts have steadily risen, and the Minister of Finance believes that the revenue for the year will show an increase of £T 2,500,000 over the average of the last five years. At the Customs in particular the increase of receipts is quite remarkable, and it is not too much to say that these satisfactory results have been due entirely to the energy, ability, and tact of Mr Crawford, whose appointment to that administration has proved a most gratifying success.

It is generally recognised that the introduction of foreign expert advice might be tried with advantage in other departments of the State. At the Ministry of Finance the experiment has already been made on a large scale. The appointment of M. Charles Laurent as financial advisor was followed by that of M. Joly, a French "inspecteur des finances" of wide experience, and by the engagement of Messrs. Graves, Stieg, and Maissa as members of the Commission of Financial Reform. The experience of these three gentlemen in Macedonia and their ability cannot fail to produce satisfactory results. Since the commission was created it has been engaged in drafting a new law for the real property tax ("vergui"), and its labours on this measure are now nearing completion.

The Budget.

The budget for the year was produced by the Minister of Finance in March, and passed the Chamber in the late summer. Although it contained numerous inaccuracies due to a too great reliance on figures furnished by the Minister of Finance, it was a genuine attempt to give an honest account of the financial situation, and the only serious criticism that can be made of it is that it contains no suggestion for paying off the floating debt. As finally voted by Parliament it showed an estimated expenditure of £T 30,530,545, of which the most significant items are £T 8,294,262 as interest on public debt, and £T 8,290,543 for the Ministry of War, and estimated revenue £T. 25,078,902, of which the land tax contributes £T 2,135,764, military exemption tax £T. 1,287,612, tax on various domestic animals £T 1,609,349, tithes £T 5,383,102, customs £T. 3,046,244, and the salt monopoly £T 1,104,818. There was thus an estimated deficit of £T 5,460,583, which was, however, brought up to a gross total of some £T 7,000,000 by certain supplementary expenditure authorised by Parliament, viz., payment of the debt to the Oriental Railways 19,000,000 fr., of the debts of the ex-Sultan 12,000,000 fr., relief of the sufferers from the Adana massacres 3,000,000 fr., making with some smaller items about £T. 1,500,000 in all.

To meet this deficit of £T 7,000,000 a loan of the same nominal amount was raised on the security of the annuity of £T 350,000 of the Russian war indemnity which had been alienated for forty years by the St. Petersburgh Convention of the 16th March. By this means a sum of £T. 5,797,549 net was received by the Treasury, so that it would seem that the deficit will not be wholly covered by this means. The Minister of Finance, however, anticipates that on the one hand the estimated receipts will be exceeded, and on the other that all the credits voted will not be exhausted, and he

is even sanguine enough to predict that he will have a small surplus to carry over to next year.

The Extraordinary Budget.

The extraordinary budget appeared in May. It authorised expenditure amounting in all to £T 6,700,140, of which £T 1,000,000 was to repay the Bank's advance of 1324 (1908) and £T. 4,163,027 for various military purposes. The receipts from extraordinary resources were put at £T. 5,650,000, made up as follows:

	£T
Austrian indemnity	2,500,000
Cash, &c., found at Yildiz according to estimate of the military authorities	1,600,000
Balance of 1908 loan	65,000
Sale of old cannon	300,000
Sale of various properties transferred from Civil List to Treasury and Ministry of War	600,000

But these sanguine provisions were disappointed, and the actual sum available amounted to only £T 2,991,469, made up of the Austrian indemnity £T 2,500,000, the Yildiz treasure £T 486,160, and the sale of some real property at Salonica £T 65,000.

Something more will no doubt be realised in time on the other items of the original budget, but it is admitted that the first total can never be reached, and the Minister of Finance has wisely decided that it is useless to try to make good the difference, and has informed his colleagues that they must "cut their coats according to their cloth." Of the sums actually encashed £T 1,000,000 has been utilised to pay off the 1908 advance, and £T 737,000 has been allocated to the Ministry of War, and the remainder is ear-marked as follows: £T 75,000 for various corps d'armée, £T 111,000 to cover the deficit on the Macedonian budget for 1907, and £T. 800,000 for matériel of all kinds already ordered by the Minister of War.

Notwithstanding the prudent resolve of the Finance Department not to attempt to make good the deficit on the extraordinary budget and in spite of the sanguine anticipations above-mentioned of Djavid Bey, it seems probable that the financial year's working will end in a deficit, a result which is disappointing considering the two considerable windfalls in the shape of the Austrian and Bulgarian indemnities, amounting together to near £T 5,250,000 which have accrued to the Treasury.

The Budget for 1910-11.

The budget for 1326 (1910-11) belongs rather to the next annual report, but as it was published before the 31st December a short mention of it is permissible as affording a useful comparison with that of 1909. It has evidently been prepared with the same scrupulous regard for economy as its predecessor, but there is still a considerable deficit. The revenue is estimated at £T 25,848,332 and the expenditure at £T 30,270,246, leaving a balance on the wrong side of £T. 4,421,914. From the figure given for expenditure, it would seem that Djavid Bey considers further economies to be impossible for the present. On the revenue side, however, the prospects seem brighter, the estimate for 1910-11 shows an increase of £T 760,000 over those of 1909-10—a most gratifying forecast considering that several minor taxes, such as the mouroun teskereh (internal passport tax), have been abolished, and that the revenues of the bridges across the Golden Horn—amounting to some £T 60,000 per annum—have been ceded to the municipality of Constantinople. The revenue seems, therefore, to possess considerable elasticity.

The 1909 Loan.

The only important financial operations of the year have been the loan of £T. 7,000,000, to which reference has already been made, and the municipal loan of Constantinople of £T 1,000,000, which is guaranteed by the Imperial Government.

In inviting tenders for the former, the Minister of Finance announced that he would not admit a clause providing for the control of the administration of the public debt of the revenues assigned to the service of the loan. This new departure was taken out of deference to the strong national feeling against foreign financial control, it was at first somewhat sharply criticised by a section of the foreign press on the ground that the issue price would be unfavourably affected if the loan lacked the security offered by the control of the "Dette," but Djavid Bey considered that if he

came before the financial world with a correctly drawn and authentic budget, on which no encroachment could be made, as in the old days, and if he showed that he had set aside certain revenues for the service of a loan which would not be diverted elsewhere, then the necessity of the intervention and guarantee of the debt administration had no longer its *raison d'être*.

The experiment was successful The National Bank, the Anglo-Turkish financial establishment founded recently at Constantinople by Sir E Cassel, was first in the field, and at once accepted the Minister's stipulation that the loan should issue without the signature of the council of the debt. Other tendering groups were obliged to follow suit and the Ottoman Bank group in Paris which offered the most advantageous terms, secured the operation The contract price was 86, but as Government had to pay the expenses of issue the net rate to them was reduced to about 83½. The loan bears 4 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund. 2,000,000*l* of the loan was to be issued in London, but scarcely more than a quarter of the amount was taken up.

The Constantinople municipal loan of £T 1,100,000 (1,000,000*l*) bears interest at the rate of 4 per cent with a sinking fund of ½ per cent. It is guaranteed by the Imperial Government, and the service is secured on the tolls of the two bridges over the Golden Horn, estimated at £T 60,000 per annum, which have been ceded by the Treasury to the city of Constantinople The Government accepted the tender of the National Bank as being the most favourable, but the issue price has not been settled, nor has the operation yet received the sanction of Parliament.

Army and Gendarmerie.

Army.

The advance towards technical efficiency in the army which was noted last year as a result of the overthrow of the despotic régime, has continued through 1909. The continuity of this advance was somewhat broken by the counter-revolution in April, and by the events which followed it, but as the result was to establish more firmly the ascendancy of the Young Turk party, the efforts to increase the military efficiency of the European ordus have well continued during the latter half of the year.

While the improvement in the matter of training and exercises, which was remarked last year, continues, and while manœuvres on a large scale were held, at Adrianople, in November, for the first time on record, yet it is too much to say that discipline is what it should be. Officers still mix in politics (which is hardly surprising when all the circumstances are considered), and orders on this subject have been disregarded Until, however, officers refrain from politics, and cease to consider that military questions may best be settled by popular discussion, the discipline can hardly be said to be satisfactory

The want of a commanding personality, either as commander-in-chief or as Minister of War, is felt. There appear to be indications that the men are hardly in sympathy with the more advanced views of those officers who are connected with the Committee of Union and Progress and who have hitherto been the leaders of political thought in the army

Perhaps, the most important of the measures taken in the direction of professional efficiency has been the engagement of about twenty German officers under the auspices of General von der Goltz, to reform and reorganise the army The principle on which General von der Goltz is working is to institute "model regiments of cavalry, artillery and infantry one of each branch in each ordu, to each of which is given a German officer as commandant and instructor" This arrangement has, so far, only been applied to the first three ordus But it is, perhaps, worth noting that pressure is being put on the Turks to lose no more time in extending this arrangement to the IVth Ordu. It is also noteworthy, and typical, that nearly all the increases and advances noted in this account, are applicable only to the IIIrd, or in some cases IVth Ordus. Very little concern is shown about the more distant portions of the Empire, the amelioration of which is apparently not a very urgent matter

Though these German officers would appear to have greater powers and a freer hand than have hitherto been accorded to Europeans in Turkish service, it is as yet too early to judge if their efforts are likely to produce greater results than have followed from similar experiments before.

In the same way, the Ministry of Marine is being advised and the fleet reorganised by a British admiral, assisted by five officers of the British Navy. But these have not—in theory at least—the executive command enjoyed by the German military officers.

A superior military council—"Shura-i Askeri"—has been constituted, which combines in some measure the wisdom of the Ministry of War, the general staff, and the executive commanders.

Another new institution is the inspectorate-general of the first three (European) ordus, which came into being after the suppression of the counter-revolution in April. The commander of the constitutional forces, Mahmud Shevket Pasha, became inspector-general, an appointment which he still holds.

An important change is that in the system by which staff officers are selected Formerly these were supplied by selecting the most successful pupils at the military school, who then had their studies prolonged until they emerged as officers on the staff without having done a day's regimental work

Now the staff college has been separated from the military school and has a separate establishment. All cadets will join regiments for duty for at least two years, and the staff college can only be entered by officers who are successful in competitive examination for which the recommendation and selection are on much the same lines as in our own army

Several new laws have been passed, of which the most important is that for the enrolment in the army of non-Moslems. It may have far-reaching effects, the results of which can hardly be prophesied, as it is a complete subversion of Turkish principle and practice In future Christians and Jews will undergo their military service like the Moslems. However, though registers have been completed and in some cases lots have actually been drawn both Turk and Christian seem at the crucial moment unwilling to put this law into effect, and some means will probably be found to nullify its provisions.

Another law which is worthy of notice is that for the "épuration des grades." It was designed to remove the inequalities of promotion due to favour under the old régime, and as its provisions were made retrospective and have been drastically applied some startling changes have resulted There are cases of major-generals who have become subalterns, and lieutenant-colonels who were generals of division are quite common

The four battalions of the zouaves of the guard, which used to be a picturesque feature of the old Selamlik ceremonies, were disbanded and abolished on the triumph of the Young Turks, as were also the Sultan's cavalry bodyguard and the Ertoghrul regiment of lancers. These have been replaced by a Royal bodyguard of 100 infantry and 100 cavalry only.

The notorious Kurdish Hamidieh cavalry were practically abolished as being opposed to all principles of constitutional government and fair dealing between the various races and religions of which the Empire is composed But towards the end of the year there are ominous signs of a resuscitation of this force, which has an obvious political significance.

The rearmament of the field and mountain artillery with the new quick-firing gun has been completed for the first four ordus, and the number of guns per battery has been reduced from six to four

The cavalry of the first three ordus has received the new small-bore Mauser carbine.

The new ammunition ordered for the infantry is that with the pointed bullet, which will necessitate a resighting of the rifles

Five battalions of engineers, two railway battalions for the Ist Ordu, field hospitals, and pontoon trains have been organised, and a transport battalion has been added to each of the fourteen divisions of the first three ordus

Machine-gun companies have also been formed, of four guns each, and though there are at present only twelve of these (in the first three ordus), a considerable development of this arm is to be expected in the near future.

Great efforts have been made to strengthen the defences of Adrianople and to render it a fortress difficult to take or to mask. This is the recommendation of General von der Goltz, and indicates an important change of strategical conception. The famous Chatalja lines have been dismantled in order to provide guns for this more forward line of defence.

A new service dress of khaki serge has been adopted for the whole army, and practically all the troops of the first three ordus now have it. The different branches

of the service are distinguished by the colours of the collars, and badges of rank are worn on the shoulder straps.

Brown ankle boots and gaiters are also adopted officially, though much latitude as to footwear is still to be observed in practice.

In addition to the khaki, officers have a full dress, for which a new universal pattern of tunic has been approved, in which the rank of the wearer is distinguished by the braiding on the cuffs and by the epaulettes.

Gendarmerie.

The Macedonian gendarmerie, which had been forced upon Turkey by the Powers, in accordance with the Mürzsteg programme, ceased to exist, as such, in March 1909. The Turkish Government then expressed its desire to extend the Macedonian system of a reformed gendarmerie under European supervision, to the whole Empire and accordingly invited the Italian reorganising general and most of the British, French, and Italian officers to continue in the Turkish service with such modifications in the terms of their contracts as were rendered necessary by the altered circumstances. There are now about thirty foreign officers employed in the gendarmerie, of whom four are British.

A commission, under the presidency of the Italian reorganising general, which sat early in the year to draw up a scheme for the general reorganisation, perpetrated the old error of a double line of operations, each working independently. Thus there is a "Service de Réorganisation" (European), and a "Direction de la Gendarmerie" (Turkish). This system obviously wastes time, increases correspondence and makes for complication. But above all it plays into the hands of that obstruction and passive resistance which have always been the enemies of reformers in this country. In Macedonia there were means of neutralising this, which no longer exist, and the foreign officers have only the functions of advisers, and have no executive authority.

The commission proposed to transfer the Service Central from Salonica to Constantinople, and to divide the Empire into six regions, of which the centres were to be at Constantinople, Salonica, Smyrna, Beyrout, Bagdad, and Trebizond. Each region comprises several vilayets and several regiments of gendarmerie, with a varying number of battalions and companies, the strengths depending on local and territorial considerations. A school for training recruits was to be established in each region and one for training non-commissioned officers at each regimental centre. There were to be two schools for training officers, one at Constantinople, and one at Salonica.

It also contemplated the elimination of practically the whole of the existing non reorganised gendarmerie officers and men. This is an essential preliminary step, without which no reorganisation can take place, but so far it has been impossible to carry it out, because there are no men to take their places. This is the chief difficulty that has been met, and it is a vital one. Without men to turn into gendarmes, any gendarmerie scheme must fall to the ground. The truth is that the Turks are not in earnest about the gendarmerie. The Government, having devoted all its energies, and all the money that can be spared, to the needs of the army, has been unable to provide for those of the gendarmerie or to give the reorganising officers material to work on.

Besides this vital want, the establishment of the various schools foreseen by the commission has been delayed, in most places by the unwillingness of the local civil and military authorities to provide buildings or barracks for the use of the gendarmerie. So what has really been done amounts to very little, and is chiefly confined to Constantinople and Salonica. The head quarters are now at the former place, and the three schools have been established there, and are in working order. At Salonica the schools of the Macedonian gendarmerie were already established, and the system was in good working order throughout Macedonia, and this has been continued, although the calls on the Salonica region for drafts of trained gendarmes for other regions has somewhat taxed its resources. A new regiment has been started at Janina. The only regimental centres at which the non-commissioned officers' schools, foreseen by the commission have been started, are Adrianople and Angora. In other cases efforts are being made to begin with a non-commissioned officers' school combined with the recruits' school at the centre of each region. And what has been achieved in this direction, even at the regional centres is so little that it may be said to be nothing. A refreshing exception to the general rule of inertia and obstruction is shown at Adana where, owing to the wish of an enlightened vali, and to his personal exertions and goodwill, a recruits' school has actually been started, as

supplementary to the one still about to be started, after six months' reorganisation at the regional centre.

Meanwhile the need of an efficient, honest, and well-administered force of gendarmerie in the interior continues to be a pressing one, but in this respect matters are practically what they were eighteen months ago.

Report on Turkish Navy for 1909.

The year 1909 saw considerable progress made in the reorganisation of the Turkish navy.

On the 2nd February Rear-Admiral Gamble arrived from England as naval adviser to the Turkish Government, and was followed early in April by four lieutenants specialists in the various branches to assist in the work.

Not much progress could be made until the end of April owing to the disorders which took place, but on things settling down great activity was displayed.

Those men-of war which were not hopelessly out of repair were commissioned and put in order, steam trials and exercises in the Marmora were carried out by individual ships, and by the end of June matters were sufficiently advanced to permit of Admiral Gamble taking the fleet for a combined cruise and exercises in the Marmora, followed on the 4th July by a review of the fleet off Haidar Pasha by His Majesty the Sultan.

On the 14th July the fleet, consisting of five battle-ships, two protected cruisers, two torpedo gun boats, four destroyers, eight torpedo-boats, and a repair ship left for a cruise in the Ægean Sea, and was absent until the end of October, when they steamed past His Majesty the Sultan in the Bosphorus and then went into winter quarters.

Considering that for several decades no Turkish squadron had manœuvred together that few Turkish officers had seen any sea service, and that the men had practically no training, the amount of progress made must be considered most gratifying, but there still remains a large amount of work to be done before the Turkish navy need be taken into consideration as a fighting force.

There are very few ships sufficiently modern to admit of them being sent into action, and those that are are of small fighting capacity, there is an immense number of officers few with the necessary training, and hardly any men with the requisite knowledge to act as petty officers, and, although considerable discussion has taken place with regard to a building programme, nothing has been settled, and it is unlikely, with the finances of the country in their present state, that a modern squadron, with the necessary adjuncts of docks, stores, ammunition, &c., can be provided for many years to come.

Amongst the most striking changes which have taken place is the state of cleanliness in which the ships in commission are now kept, whilst the men have been provided with a serviceable kit and present a much smarter appearance than heretofore.

Little advance has been made in providing dock accommodation and workshops, but the old yard in the Golden Horn has been cleared of the accumulation of rubbish which had collected, and is now available for ordinary repairs.

A large number fifty-nine in all—of obsolete and worn-out vessels has been sold, and are to be broken up at the disused Government yard at Ismidt. They include six battle-ships, three monitors, four corvettes, nine paddle steamers, nineteen torpedo-boats, two submarines, and eight various, and fetched £ T. 62,000.

Appended is a list of the ships which form the effective fleet —

Name.	Date.	Tonnage.	Description.	Armament.
"Messudieh"	1874 R. 1902	10,000	Battle-ship	2—9·2", 12—6", 14—12-prs.
"Assar-Tewfik"	1867 R. 1903	5,000	"	3—6", 7—4·7", 6—6-prs.
"Avni-ullah"	1869 R. 1904	2,400	"	4—6", 6—3", 10—6-prs.
"Feth-i Bulend"	1870 R. 1904	2,800	"	4—6", 6—3", 10—6-prs.
Mouin-i-zaffer"	1869 R. 1904	2,400	"	4—6", 6—3", 10—6-prs.

Name.	Date.	Tonnage.	Description.	Armament.
"Hamidieh"	1903	3,277	Protected cruiser	2 6", 8—4·7", 3 torpedo tubes.
"Medjidieh"	1903	3,850	" "	2 6", 8—4·7", 2 torpedo tubes.
"Pelenk-i-Dina"	1890	900	Torpedo gun boat	2 4", 5—3-prs., 3 torpedo tubes.
"Peik-i-Shevket"	1906	775	" "	2—4", 6 6-prs. 3 torpedo tubes.
"Berk-i-Salbet"	1906	775	" "	2 4", 6—6-prs., 3 torpedo tubes.
"Samsoun"	1907-8	300	T B. destroyers	1—12-pr, 6—3-prs., 2 torpedo tubes.
"Basra"				
"Tasshoy",				
"Yar-Hissar"				

Also fourteen torpedo-boats of from 85 to 165 tons displacement.

In addition, but of little or no fighting capacity, there are twenty-four gun-boats, eight yachts, and seven transports.

Public Works in Turkey

An ambitious programme was published in December 1908 by the Minister of Public Works, Gabriel Effendi Nuradunghian, including roads, railways, harbours, regulation of rivers, and irrigation, but, owing to want of money and indecision, very little has been accomplished during the past twelve months.

Roads.

Some work has been done on military roads in Macedonia by the mutineers of the 1st Army Corps who were taken prisoners at Constantinople last April.

Negotiations were commenced between a German bank and the Public Works Department for road-building contracts in the Smyrna and Konia provinces.

No money has yet been found for road making, but a draft law, providing for the construction of roads throughout the Empire, has been prepared by the Ministry of Public Works, and, if accepted by the Cabinet, will be laid before the Chamber.

Railways.

Several applications for concessions to build railways have been laid before the Ministry of Public Works during the past year.

The principal scheme was one for a railway to Sivas, Kharput, Arghana, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Van, with a branch to the sea at Yumurtalik viâ the Jihan valley, and a branch to Mosul, Kerkuk, and Sulomanieh. Offers were made by Dr Bruce M. Glasgow, representing J. G. White and Co., of New York and London, by Admiral Chester, representing a Mr. Moore and the Carnegie Trust, and by Colonel Shaefer, representing Belgian capitalists, to build such a railway without any kilometric guarantee in return for mining rights over 20 kilom. on each side of the line.

The Chamber and Senate passed a resolution authorising the Government to grant a concession on these lines.

The Ministry of Public Works has been making enquiries as to the financial capacity of these three applicants to carry out their undertaking, of which the cost is estimated at about 20,000,000*l.*

Of the three the Belgian syndicate alone has satisfied the Ministry, but Colonel Schaefer seems to be taking no further steps at present, and negotiations were reported on the 20th November, 1909, to be at a standstill.

One result of this specious and speculative proposal has been to shelve an English application for a concession to build a railway from Samsoun to Sivas, Eghin, Kharput, Argana, Diarbekir, with branches from Amasia to Angora and Yozgat, and from Eghin to Erzeroum, on the basis of a guaranteed 5 per cent. interest on the capital spent.

This concession is being negotiated on behalf of the Euxine and Marmora British Development Syndicate; but, in addition to the fact that the hands of the Turkish Government are tied by the resolution of the Chamber and Senate referred to above, there exists another obstacle in the shape of the agreement with Russia that no

concessions for railways in the Black Sea basin shall be given to any foreigners but Russian subjects.

The Euxine and Marmora Syndicate is negotiating with Russian and French capitalists with a view to getting round this difficulty. But a Franco-Russian combination of the Régie générale des Chemins de Fer and the Russian Banque internationale de Saint-Pétersbourg is already in the field, and is now surveying a line between Samsoun and Sivas.

The survey is being made both for a narrow and a normal gauge line, and it is expected that arrangements will be made for extensions to Kharput, Marsivan, and Yozgat. No kilometric guarantee is to be given, and the concession will include the construction of the port of Samsoun.

Another British scheme which has been indefinitely delayed through Dr. Glasgow's proposal was Mr d'Arcy's application for the concession of the petroleum wells in Mesopotamia.

The Bagdad Railway Company announces that work will be begun at once simultaneously in four directions for the continuation of the line from Bulgurlu over the Taurus to Aleppo and across the Euphrates to El Helif.

No decision has yet been taken whether the line shall be built from Adana along the inland route laid down in the original concession, or along the sea coast through Alexandretta. A syndicate of the Deutsche Bank, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Swiss Credit Anstalt and Wiener Bank-Verein will take up the loans, amounting to 9,080,000*l.*, with which the new sections will be built.

The Homs Tripoli Concession has been granted to the French Damascus-Homs Railway Company. The term of the concession is fixed at eighty-eight years so as to expire at the same time as the main concession, Aleppo-Rayak. The length is about 100 kilom., the gauge is normal 1·44 metres. No kilometric guarantee is given.

The Ministry of Public Works is reported to have decided in favour of building a railway from Homs or Damascus to Bagdad. The matter is to be submitted to the Council of Ministers. This is the railway which Sir W. Willcocks strongly advocates.

Hodeidah–Sana.—A convention for the preliminary survey and preferential right of construction was concluded between the Ministry of Public Works and a certain Elie Leon Bey, but, in view of the Bill passed by the Chamber in August last, the Public Works Department sent a surveying commission, which is now on the spot. The estimates and plans made will form a basis on which tenders will be asked. The Government recognises that some guarantee will have to be given, probably interest on capital spent. This railway, which is very important on economic and military grounds, will be narrow gauge 1·05 metres, with a branch to the Gulf of Jobana, where a military port will be constructed.

Danube Adriatic. *The Salonica Constantinople Railway Company* is making surveys, but meets difficulties from the population and local authorities. It is not likely that the line will be built until a guarantee is granted.

Demir Hissar–Djuma Balu.—No progress made as Government is unwilling to grant guarantees.

Panderma Soma.—Negotiations proceeding with Smyrna–Cassaba Railway Company.

Harbours.

M. Godard, new French engineer attached to the Public Works Department, is to visit Tripoli, Mersina, Alexandretta, Haiffa, and Jaffa, and study and survey ports.

The Public Works Department has expressed regret at the little interest shown by British capitalists in public works in Turkey.

Mesopotamia Irrigation.

Sir W. Willcocks, in a report addressed to the Minister of Public Works, dated the 1st January, 1909, describes the object of his survey operations himself, as follows:—

1. To restore irrigation near Babylon and Hilla by sending water down the old bed of the Euphrates. This can be done by the completion of the works at the Hindiya barrage.
2. To ensure navigation between Bussorah and Bagdad.
3. To restore the ancient irrigation round Bagdad, Ctesiphon, and Seleucia by

means of the Saklawio, Abu Gharaib, and Nahwar canals; and the protection of this irrigation against floods.

4. To restore the ancient irrigation around Bussorah.

5. To restore the ancient irrigation on the Hai Canal by means of a dam across the Tigris at Kut.

Copies of Sir W Willcocks' reports to the Minister of Public Works describing the result of the survey, and giving estimates of the expense required to carry out the work he recommends were confidentially communicated to the Board of Trade (Commercial Intelligence Branch) through His Majesty's consul-general at Bagdad.

Sir W Willcocks sums up the result of his year's work in a report addressed to the Minister of Public Works on the 10th October, 1909 He strongly urges the construction of a railway from Bagdad across the desert through Palmyra to Homs and Tripoli as the shortest and natural outlet to the west for the products of Mesopotamia. He recommends the immediate construction of the Hindiya barrage works, estimated cost, £ T 352,440, the Habbania Saklawia works, cost, £ T 345,840, and the Tigris navigation works near Amara, estimated cost £ T 70,100, in all, £ T 768,380 He proposes that these works should be commenced by the Government, and contracts have been made with solid contractors of good repute, who will take over the work done at cost price. He asked for authority to begin work, and for a grant of £ T 26,000 for this financial year (expiring end of February 1910), £ T 150,000 for the following year, and £ T. 600,000 during the two following years.

The credits asked for this and next year were granted, and he has returned to Bagdad to start the work.

These are in his own words the preliminary works on which will be based the regeneration of the country

The works surveyed, designed, and estimated on the Euphrates will cost in all £ T 1,856,760, and on the Tigris, £ T 1,820 480; in all a total of £ T 3,677,240

The area irrigated on the Euphrates will amount to 700,000 hectares, and on the Tigris to 300,000 hectares, of which a large part will be date groves and gardens.

The taxes may be estimated at £ T 750,000 per annum.

Navigation of the Tigris and Euphrates

Protracted negotiations have been carried on for the fusion of the two steam-ship navigation companies existing on the Tigris, the Lynch Company, and the Turkish Company An agreement was discussed for the fusion of the two into an Ottoman Company under the Turkish flag, with a monopoly for seventy-five years of the navigation on both rivers.

The matter was brought before the Chamber, which after a stormy debate, gave the Government full powers to grant a concession provided no financial liability were involved

Messrs. Lynch are holding out for an indemnity in the event of the rivers being rendered unnavigable by the irrigation works, and the negotiations on this point are still proceeding.

Concessions.

Makhsussa.

A concession was granted to Stefan Spartali Effendi, deputy, acting for the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company (Limited), and for Messrs. Weddel, Turner and Co, and a company was formed to take over the concession on the 10th October, 1909, under the title of "Societé nationale ottomane de Navigation à vapeur."

The company takes over the business and the fleet of the "Makhsussa" Administration with the sole right during seventy-five years to work eight lines of passenger traffic between Constantinople and the suburbs, and with certain privileges in the coasting trade of Turkey.

The capital of the Company is fixed at £ T 900,000 in £ T. 1 shares, of which 550,000 registered shares reserved for Ottoman subjects, and 350,000 shares to bearer. The company pays £ T 351,000 to the Ottoman Government for the concession, including the old Makhsussa fleet

The vendors of the concession had in view originally the sum of 400,000*l*., as

promotion money; but owing to very strong pressure exercised by the Foreign Office, they reduced this amount to 50,000*l*., which figures in the published prospectus

The Board of Directors, whose names are published in the prospectus, does not include any name which carries weight in Constantinople. It is very disappointing that the first concession obtained by Englishmen under the new régime, and one which under honest, capable management, promised excellent results, should have been handled in the wrong spirit at the outset.

Telephones.

A concession for the installation and working of a telephone service in Constantinople is to be given to a syndicate composed of the National Telephone Company, The British Insulated and Helsby Cables (Limited), Thompson, Houston, et Cie., of France, and the Western Electric Company, of the United States.

The proposal put in by this syndicate has been accepted in principle, but protests have been lodged against it by competitors, and the matter is before the Council of Ministers

European Turkey

Macedonia.

The original policy of the Constantinople Government in the winter of 1908, when they found that the activity of the various bands was ceasing, had been to await the moment when all should have submitted, and then to send a commission of Roumeliot deputies into the vilayets to examine and settle the rival claims of exarchists and patriarchists in regard to the question of the possession of schools and churches. When it became evident, early in 1909, that the racial hostility in Macedonia was far from diminishing, that Greeks, Bulgars, Serbs, and Vlachs retained their arms and continued their propaganda against each other, and that the Bulgars in particular were said to be making conversions rather by force than by persuasion, it was decided to maintain the *status quo*, and keep the disputed churches closed until the Chamber should have elaborated the necessary laws dealing with the churches, schools, and repression of bands.

This decision met with no welcome from any of the Christian elements concerned. the Greeks were spurred on to make fresh efforts and Greek army officers began travelling in disguise through the country, trying to win over the villagers to the patriarchate, the Bulgars, probably in consequence of the strained relations existing between Turkey and Bulgaria, continued arming, and other bands were forming round Salonica, Serres, and Monastir The Government in reply proceeded to arm the Moslem population, and the tension and general alarm increased The conditions in the vilayets had somewhat changed during the winter, the troops were now more concentrated upon the towns, the removal in the spring of the foreign gendarmerie officers on the expiry of their contracts relaxed the efficiency of the corps, and the unsafe conditions of the country districts inclined the local authorities to advocate a proclamation of martial law as the only possible effective measure of restoring order. Compared with former years, however, the number of active bands that appeared up to the month of April was very small, and for some while after the events of that month the draining of the provinces in sending troops and volunteers to the capital kept the native population otherwise occupied

Apart from the antagonisms of the different nationalities in Macedonia, a definite split took place in February among the Bulgars themselves when the old enemies, Sandansky and Tchernopeyeff, both adherents of the Centralist party agreed to come to terms and unite against the Bulgarian constitutional clubs They combined forces under the name of the Bulgarian National Federal Party, and proclaimed their aims to be both nationalistic and democratic, they established bureaux and clubs in the principal towns, took "Macedonia for the Macedonians" as their motto, and professed to reject any outside connection with Servia or Bulgaria. By a grave error of judgment, it was with this new party that the Central Government decided to make common cause when the committee had regained sufficient hold on the country after the events of April to turn their attention again to affairs in Macedonia.

The IIIrd Army Corps at Salonica, which was the stronghold of the committee party, refused to accept the coup of the 13th April at Constantinople, and the commander summoned the Sultan, who was from the first regarded as responsible for the reactionary movement, to restore Hussein Hilmi's Government within twelve hours,

and punish with death the organisers of the outbreak. No heed was paid to the reiterated assurances from the capital that no infringement of the constitution had taken place, and within a few days from the reception of the first news, the army of Salonica, swelled by regiments from Adrianople, Monastir and by other volunteers, was marching on Constantinople. The committee, posing as the champions of Liberalism against reaction, were now supreme and the news of the deposition of Abdul Hamid, and his despatch for better security, to Salonica at the end of April, were greeted with general satisfaction and enthusiasm. There followed the usual pursuit and arrest of suspected persons, officials (among whom were the presidents of the commercial court and correctional tribunal at Salonica, Izzeddin, and reactionary officers, and members of the Liberal Union and Mohammedan Union were in particular hunted down.

At the beginning of the counter-revolution, Sarafsky, Panitza Tchernopeyeff and their friends, finding themselves likely to be isolated and out of employment, offered their services as volunteers, and threw in their lot with the Committee of Union and Progress. The other parties were less pressing in their zeal. The Bulgarian constitutional clubs closed and instructed the committee and came forward somewhat slowly, while for the first few days the Greeks, warned by the patriarch to remain neutral, did not move at all. Though there was no desire to accept the services of any of these uncertain volunteers, the Government were unable to refuse the offers made and instead of treating all impartially, unwisely listened to Sarafsky's assurances that his party desired solely to see the fusion of all races in one individual Ottoman loyalty, and that his rivals the Cubbists who replaced the old Vilayet organisation, were but the tools of the Bulgarian Government in the interests of ultimate annexation. The other parties now found their offers of aid rejected and their influence waning as Sarafsky's grew, he acquired additional popularity among the people by his socialist promises to the peasants regarding distribution of land, and after the entry into the capitals, his reception at the Porte, where all the burning questions affecting Macedonia were discussed with him, was the last touch to the exasperation of the Bulgarian Clubs party. From this time onwards all bitterness ceased to be personally directed against Sarafsky's followers were treated as outlaws and enemies of the state, while the Greeks hoping to profit by disorders under the new régime which they disliked attacked Bulgarians who, they could safely hope, in the hurry of events would be unprotected. In spite of all provocation, the Bulgarian Cubbists maintained a perfectly correct attitude, discouraging the formation of clubs and of whose members they prevailed on to return to Bulgaria, doing what they could to restore order in the provinces.

On the 15th July a meeting was held at Salonica consisting members of all classes except those of Sarafsky and Tchernopeyeff, for the formation of a "Ligue de Union et d'Intérêt Ottoman" the object of which was to establish a Balkan confederation under the leadership of Turkey. It was to be particularly against Austria. The Committee of Union and Progress were at first inclined to start some such society themselves, gave the league their official support and the Freemasons' Lodges, whose influence was growing throughout the year played a prominent part in its constitution. The effort at improving the relations of the different races, which had been so industriously encouraged by Fuad Bey, Dr Nazim, was rendered very by the overbearing conduct of the police, whose treatment of the Greeks, was unnecessarily brutal, and was perhaps only to be explained by the excitement which prevailed just then over the Cretan question. Unfortunately Greek officers and agents were caught travelling mysteriously about the country, and though the only evidence on which the authorities obtained warrants to show that these agents were highly dissatisfied at the correct conduct of the Greek consular officials and inhabitants of Macedonia the Government gradually felt the feelings of suspicion and distrust which had been awakened against the Greek element in the country, and the relations between Greeks and Turks became more acute than ever strained.

The relations between the Government and the non-Moslem elements of the three vilayets were not further improved by the legislative measures introduced by the former during the course of the year for the restoration of order. Unable to face the question of schools and churches the authorities had to cope with the ever-present question which these vexed questions produced, several solutions were suggested, such as that the churches in dispute should be suppressed, or that those belonging to the Patriarchate should be restored to the Greeks, and the Bulgars be allowed to build new ones, but the committee party favoured a proposal to hand the churches over in all cases to the numerical majority in the villages concerned.

In August three articles of a law were hurriedly rushed through the Chamber, which laid down the following principles, in those villages where the inhabitants are of one nationality the churches go to that nationality unless they be private churches erected on farms &c. where mixed nationalities are divided the church goes to the majority if it numbers two thirds of the total, and if less, to the founders. None of the Christians were satisfied with this arrangement, and nothing was done to carry out these terms and though in October the Exarchists in Monastir forcibly broke open five churches in protest at the Government's decision, the churches were speedily closed again and the *status quo* maintained.

The next measure passed was a law against the establishment of political clubs and associations. Meanwhile, the law was not enforced until September, but already in June a large meeting of protest had taken place at Salonica at which a Young Labour party had showed some activity in the interests of the trades unions, and there was general consternation among the Christian population when the scope of the new law became known. They complained that it deprived them of the one and only benefit which they had derived from the constitutional régime, and pointed out that it was far sounder policy to leave the existing clubs untouched than, by suppressing them, to drive the inhabitants to form secret societies. The further complaint made by the Bulgars that it was aimed directly against them, seems however hardly justified, for even the Committee of Union and Progress were affected by its terms, and it was found necessary to summon a general meeting of the party in September to consider the reconstitution of their clubs on non-political lines. No resistance was offered to the application of the law, action on the part of the Government was generally anticipated by the voluntary closing of the various clubs in December but the measure produced an exasperating effect on the different parties who began at once to consider the conditions on which it would be possible to reopen the clubs again.

Some show of enthusiasm was at first displayed on the issue of a further law authorising throughout the Empire the enrolment of non-Moslems in the Ottoman army, but the conditions of such enrolment were in the law left extremely vague, and, as the problem came to be studied more closely, the difficulties in the way of its solution became more apparent, and the merchant enthusiasm was changed into an uneasy feeling that a further cause of friction between the different nationalities had been created. The Moslems dreaded the enrolment of their Christian fellow-men, fearing that their better education would give them all the higher grades in the regiments and disinclined to mix with the Christians had no wish to share quarters with the former, and though the idea of bearing arms for the Ottoman appeals to the martially minded the possibility of being removed to the Yemen or other such remote corners for service, the moment Patriarch put forward demands which were considered to be exorbitant Rallies for patriotic expressions for the Government, without giving any encouragement to these demands which would certainly not be granted, have so far gone no further than drawing up lists of all young men to be drawn for service. Uncertain perhaps of the effect of their own measure they have hesitated the inhabitants in most cases and postponed calling out recruits until next year.

The last and most unpopular measure of all was the Bands Law, which after discussion in the Council was passed on the 27th September by Imperial Irade without the sanction of Parliament as a measure of urgency for the safeguarding of the State in virtue of article 30 of the constitution.

This law, the passing of which was sufficient to indicate the unsatisfactory condition of the country, gave special powers to the kaimakams or watch-mutessarifs and obtain information regarding brigands and seditious persons, and power of severe punishments for the shelterers of such persons, and for failure to inform against them, while empowering the authorities to establish commissions of enquiry and courts-martial, and to organise flying columns and exterminate sections against the brigands. Courts-martial were in accordance with the terms of this law set up in November in Salonica Monastir and their centres, no appeal was allowed from their decisions, but a sentence of death required sanction by Imperial Irade. Though these courts-martial did not in fact display very great severity, and acquitted more often than they condemned, a great outcry was raised among the Bulgars against them, and particular exception was taken to the Government's policy of capturing the relatives of brigands or band leaders bringing them to Salonica, and menacing them with deportation to Anatolia unless their male relatives agreed to submit. These proceedings only enhanced the exasperation of the outlaws, who declared that they had

simply been driven into the hills by the espionage and persecution of the authorities, whose action in seizing their families would end by driving them in desperation to promote chaos and confusion in Macedonia in the hopes of bringing in European intervention.

Under the increasing provocation of these various measures the Bulgarian constitutional clubs found it difficult to control their own members or restrain the growing indignation of their partisans in the country. At their annual Congress held in September at Salonica they freely aired their grievances, complaining that the important questions of schools and churches were no nearer solution, that none of the lands occupied by Moslems since 1903 had been restored to them, and that the agrarian and fiscal conditions urgently required reform. They could see in the new Government nothing more than a fresh form of despotism, and claimed the right to equal treatment with the other races under the constitution. Soon after the conference the president of the clubs, M. Karayovoff proceeded on a mission to Sophia, where he was able to induce the Bulgarian Government to expel some of the secret-committee leaders and worked hard in other ways to prevent formation of bands on the Bulgarian frontier; but the Turks, who continued to befriend Sandansky, had no confidence in the professions of the Clubbists, their suspicions had been reawakened by an unsuccessful attempt made on Sandansky's life at the end of August, by the Bulgar press attacks and the clubs' criticism of the Government's policy, as well as by the reports of new activity among the ex-band leaders. On the 28th December M. Karayoff came to Constantinople and endeavoured to conciliate the authorities by verbal argument, but he signally failed. Talaat Bey admitted that the provincial authorities were out of hand, and constantly applied the laws in a spirit which was not intended, but it was clear that he mistrusted as much as ever the offers of friendly relations on the part of the clubs whose president returned to Salonica in despair, and looking forward with anxiety to the prospects of the coming spring. The fall of the Hilmi Ministry in December did not come altogether unexpectedly, it was said that the resignation of the Grand Vizier had been decided on at a secret meeting of the Committee of Union and Progress at Salonica as early as September last, and that Rahmi Bey, the chief mover in the Assembly, had then won over the other delegates to chose Hakki Pasha as his successor, several of the Ministers, including Hanadyan and Djavid, were making a tour of inspection through Macedonia at the time; their presence was greeted with enthusiasm along the line, and gave the provincial towns an opportunity to put before them any pressing petitions or grievances they had to make.

The general outlook in Macedonia at the end of 1909 could not be said to be favourable, and, though the number of crimes of a political character committed during the year, as shown on the accompanying table, had greatly diminished when compared with the total figures for 1908, it must be remembered that during the events of April and for some months afterwards so great confusion existed that it was impossible to obtain accurate figures and information, and a certain number of crimes were most probably perpetrated unnoticed. Similarly it was difficult to trace the existence or whereabouts of bands, there were perpetual rumours, particularly towards the end of the year, of the recurrence of band activity among Greeks and Bulgars, but if these bands were formed, they at least refrained from committing any wholesale outrages, and for the most part confined their energies to intimidation. In February there were said to be Greek bands forming on the frontier and again in March Ferid Pasha of Monastir left for Serbije on hearing that three bands had appeared on the Thessaly border, but, though arms and ammunition were certainly being introduced no bands were to be discovered. An old Greek band under Kromlu was hunted down and captured in the summer, but, though there were innumerable Greek brigand bands about Kassandra, Mount Athos, and Katerina which did much damage, no other political band has been identified; on the Bulgarian side only two were absolutely localised, one led by a Vrhovist named Dinka, whose activity began early in the year, and subsequently grew in numbers till it split up into four parties under Zaroukoff, Baharoff, and another leader. At Sandansky's instigation Dinka's section was pursued to the Karadagh, broken up, and he himself brought to Salonica for trial by court-martial late in the autumn. The other band, which formed near Yenidje Vardar in May, has not made itself much heard of since a Servian band appeared near Uesküb in June, but was also little heard of, and in November some Albanian bands were successfully run to ground along the Greek frontier and in Epirus, where there had been unceasing brigandage and robbery.

Of the individual political crimes hardly any deserve special notice, a sensation

was caused in May by the murder of a young Bulgar notable named Hadji Gheorghieff, son of a rich tobacco merchant at Drama, the murder was apparently committed by Greeks, who came specially from Xanthi for the purpose; only the prompt measures taken by the kaimakam prevented a free fight between Greeks and Bulgars over the incident.

In November an amnested Bulgar ex-band leader, Vassili Stoyanoff, was killed by a Turkish criminal, and the Bulgars at once accused the Committee of Union and Progress of instigating the crime; the motive was eventually traced to be one of revenge on the part of a neighbouring land-owner, but the strong feeling between Turks and Greeks was not allayed.

On the 12th December there occurred a peculiarly brutal murder of a Montenegrin Ottoman subject Yovo Yovanovitch, inspector of non-Moslem schools at Monastir by five Bulgarian butchers. The crime was laid to the door of the Clubbists by the Government who thereupon arrested forty-three of the most prominent members of the clubs and made the occasion an excuse to break up the power of the club party as much as possible. This increment and the release the same day of twelve turbulent young Greeks who had been, probably rightly, condemned in connection with the burning of a Bulgarian Protestant church at Koleshin in the spring, added another burning grievance to the Bulgars list of injustices at the hands of the Turks and of their Greek compatriots.

On the 27th December Nicolaos Euripotes a Greek ex-band leader now in the employ of the Committee of Union and Progress, was murdered at Serres by members of the Hellenic organisation who, it was believed feared his denunciations, and an attempt was made to attribute a similar motive to the assassination on the 29th of a Serres Greek Yanko Papasoghlou who had also broken with the organisation in favour of the committee: he was murdered on the quay at Salonica by a Turkish officer from Serres, but the authorities informed the Greek population by arresting twenty Greeks haphazard and making no attempt to trace the officer or take the evidence of a German eye-witness of the deed.

TABLE of Crimes during the year 1909.

	Bulgars.	Greeks.	Serbs.	Vlachs.	Moslems.	Unknown.	Troops or Brigands.	Total.
Killed by Bulgars	45	16	4	2	11	..	..	78
" Greeks	13	7	..	4	3	..	3	30
" Serbs	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	8
" Vlachs	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
" Moslems	23	4	20	2	12	..	1	62
" unknown	28	35	8	..	21	2	..	94
" troops or brigands	5	7	..	..	2	..	1	15
Totals	121	73	33	8	49	2	5	291

Monthly totals—	
January	25
February	22
March	21
April	34
May	32
June	24
July	18
August	17
September	22
October	48
November	17
December	11
Total	291

The Macedonian Financial Commission began the year 1909 under the presidency of Mahmoud Chevket Pasha the general commanding the IIIrd Army Corps who was appointed acting inspector-general of the three vilayets on Hilmi Pasha's departure for Constantinople at the end of November 1908 to take up the post of

Minister of the Interior. Without possessing Hilmi Pasha's administrative experience and great mastery of detail, Mahmoud Chevket Pasha who was for some time vali of Cossovo showed a sufficient acquaintance with the financial situation in Macedonia, and his frank and soldierly bearing and manifest good will rendered his relations with the foreign members of the commission both pleasant and satisfactory.

The budget estimates for 1323 having been prepared in the autumn and forwarded to Constantinople in November, the commission chiefly confined itself to the ordinary routine of the financial services during the first three months of the year.

From the beginning of the year attention was repeatedly drawn by the foreign members to the question of the floating debt of the three vilayets, and especially to the large sum due by the Treasury to the Public Works Fund amounting at the beginning of the year to £T 69,746 and the Ministry of Finance was at last moved by the urgent representations of Mahmoud Chevket Pasha to forward successive extra-budgetary contributions towards the extinction of the floating debt, amounting to £T 90,000 in all by the end of May (o.s.) when the sum due to the Public Works Fund had been reduced to £T 51,150. That sum then represented the total floating debt as at that moment there were practically no arrears of civil and military pay due in the three vilayets on account of 1323, and the unpaid balance of military expenditure incurred in 1324 in excess of the budgetary provision, amounting to £T 231,580, had ceased to form a part of the floating debt of the three vilayets and become chargeable to the Imperial treasury.

At the end of January the foreign members of the commission found it necessary to protest against serious irregularities which were disclosed in the Treasury service of the vilayet of Cossovo where the defterdar was found to be encashing receipts direct from the dependent sanjaks, and making payments without the visé of the Ottoman Bank. An inquiry was held by the commission's inspectors and it was shown that the irregularity was due to the ill-judged interference of the Ministry of Finance in the question of the rate of exchange without previously consulting the inspector-general, and to a misunderstanding by the defterdar of Cossovo of instructions received from Hilmi Pasha. Although it was proved to the satisfaction of the Financial Commission that no real abuse had been committed, nor payments made in excess of budgetary credits the case was interesting as showing the absolute lack of co-ordination which existed between the different parts of the Turkish financial administration.

Early in April the foreign members of the commission were obliged to point out to Mahmoud Chevket Pasha that large military payments on account of the new budget had been made before the civil expenses of the last months of the old financial year had been paid for although there was still credit for the latter in the old budget, and that this was contrary to the letter and spirit of the regulement of the Financial Commission. The acting inspector-general frankly admitted the irregularity, which he explained by his unwillingness, in the then temper of the IIIrd Army Corps, to pay the civil officials up to late while military pay was three months in arrears owing to the exhaustion of the military credits, and the army contractors were threatening to withhold supplies unless payments were made to them on account. The regular payment of civil officials was at once resumed, and there has been no further cause for complaint under this head.

The reactionary movement at Constantinople of the 13th April deprived the Financial Commission of its acting president, Mahmoud Chevket Pasha who took command of the constitutional forces and entered Constantinople in triumph ten days later. It also had the effect of considerably disturbing the financial services of the three vilayets and delaying the collection of revenue owing to the absence of numerous financial officials and tahsildars, who joined the army as volunteers. Mahmoud Chevket Pasha was succeeded as acting Inspector-General and President of the Financial Commission by Halil Bey, who had been chief secretary to Hilmi Pasha during the whole of his Macedonian mission.

At the beginning of May statistical tables were laid before the commission showing the total local receipts for the financial year which ended the 28th February, 1909. The new receipts, compared with those of the two preceding years, showed a substantial progressive increase as follows:

	£T
Net local receipts, 1322	1,663,004
" 1323	1,709,274
" 1324	1,731,971

Still better results would undoubtedly have been obtained if it had not been for the administrative disturbances caused by the revolution of July 1908, and to the fact that the inspector-general and the Financial Commission were unable to visit the vilayets of Monastir and Cossovo in the usual course.

Nothing of note occurred during the early summer months, and it was possible at the end of July to report that the financial position of the three vilayets was more favourable than it had been at any period since the institution of the Macedonian Financial Commission.

On the 15th August the members of the commission were informed by their respective chancelleries that a note had been addressed to the Porte agreeing to the dissolution of the commission, which was to take effect from the end of August (o.s.), and on the 13th September the last meeting of the commission was held, when the acting inspector-general was able to state that there were no arrears due on account of civil or military expenses in the three vilayets.

European Turkey

Adrianople

The direction of affairs in the vilayet of Adrianople during the first three months of 1909 was entirely in the hands of the military, who were ostensibly at least, staunch supporters of the Committee of Union and Progress. Discipline was nevertheless extremely lax, and the senior officers had hardly any control. On Kiamil Pasha's dismissal of the Ministers of War and Marine a meeting was summoned by the younger officers of the Adrianople Army Corps to protest against this proceeding, and military intervention was seriously discussed. On the departure of Nazim Pasha to Constantinople, where he was appointed Minister of War, the spirit in the ranks of the army widened, and though no actual cleavage occurred, there was a great deal of discontent throughout the IInd Army Corps, partly on account of the retention of the reservists of October 1908 with the colours, partly as a result of the grievances freely aired by a large section of the civilian population, supported by the Mulahs, or uneducated officers that the committee had removed a personal despotism only in order to replace it by a collective autocracy.

Wid Nazim some of the best officers left the district or resigned notably Prince Aziz and Tewfik Pasha, and the new vali, Salih Pasha, lacked the strength of character required for the post. As was only natural in the circumstances, therefore, the events of the 13th April in the capital provoked an effort in Adrianople which led to a short, sharp struggle between the Committee of Union and Progress and the combination of reactionaries and Liberals which lasted to the 16th of the month. For the first month the committee party were completely paralysed, but on the 15th they decided to support the IInd Army Corps in moving on Constantinople, and a violent propaganda began among the troops, on the one side by the committee officers and the army chaplains, on the other by the Mahometan officers and ulema. The value of the concession, prohibited all newspapers, arrested all emissaries from Constantinople discouraged the reservist troops, and on the 16th was able to send two battalions to join the Salonica army at Tchataldja. For the time being the committee had completely triumphed and the Liberals and reactionaries disappeared from the scene, the people were on the whole indifferent and the change of Sultans was accepted coldly.

The summer passed away quietly in the vilayet and there was comparatively little trouble from band activity, the Greeks remained shy and disorganized, complaining occasionally of attacks from the Bulgarians on the frontier. They adopted an attitude of frank opposition to the new régime, and the discovery at Uzun Keopru by the authorities of the rudiments of an "Hellenic organisation," whose object was to arm and finance Greek bands for activity against the Bulgar element in the vilayet did not tend to improve their relations either with the Turkish or Bulgar population. Greek agents travelled freely about the country and the Greek consular officers were accused of abetting their intrigues, but few, if any, serious bands appeared, the remains of the old band of Stavraki was destroyed in August, and the Bulgars themselves maintained a quiet and correct attitude, though provoked by several isolated murders.

Though the measures of precaution, arrest, and espionage, suggestive almost of former years, cowed the vilayet through the summer months, the Liberals seem to be

holding up their heads again, no disturbances have taken place, but reports were current late in November of a fresh movement among some of the dismissed officials, older officers and soldiers for the abolition of the constitution and overthrow of the committee, and the changes which have taken place among the garrison of late, and the sudden removal of certain regiments to the capital may give colour to these reports. There has, at any rate appeared a strong wave in favour of the Liberals latterly, which seems to be only awaiting the first sign of weakening on the part of the Committee of Union and Progress to make itself actively manifest. A good impression was, however created at the very end of the year by a journey of inspection which Haladjian Effendi, Minister of Public Works, undertook throughout the province. He made an inspection of public buildings, roads, and railways, and made the people feel that the provinces had not been entirely forgotten.

Administratively there has been little improvement during the last year in the vilayet. In March a provincial council was summoned which suggested many excellent reforms with regard to the state of the roads, municipal administration, reorganisation of departments, &c., but they had no power to carry them out, and the vali had neither the authority from the centralised Government at Constantinople nor the funds required. Public security has indeed increased, and there is a wholesome feeling that crime no longer goes entirely unpunished, but as long as the old, inactive officials retained their posts in the districts it was impossible to get any work done without resort to the old system of bribery and corruption. A bad wheat and barley season, hardly balanced by good silk conditions, gave bad revenues and resulted in deficits in all departments, and it was not until the autumn that the Government were induced to replace their provincial officials by younger and more energetic men, who began to have the roads repaired, to study the economic interests of their districts, and to inspire the administration with a new spirit. Unfortunately their energy has been partially paralysed by the state of chaos which the reorganisation of the various departments has occasioned, and there are still great complaints that no business can be carried through, that the gendarmerie have lost their control, and that the country must relapse into its former state of insecurity.

During the early part of the year Turkish families were immigrating from Bulgaria at the rate of about 100 a week, and the Government welcoming their advent settled them in the south-east of the Ganuldjna district and to the east of Vize, but this policy has not met with much success. The Government provided the earlier immigrants with tools and arms, but found it necessary in the autumn to set up some 300 families on the land at a cost of 20*l.* each, the former immigrants raised an outcry because they had received no money aid, the Christians became afraid that they would be swamped by the Moslem element, and the vali himself feared that the assistance given would attract other families who had no need to move and would prove in the end expensive. An endeavour made by some Bulgar families to return to the Kirk Kusse district has been discouraged, the Turkish authorities preferring that the north-east frontier should remain unoccupied unless it could be colonised by a Moslem population.

An offer on the part of the Government to subsidise the Greek, Jewish, and Bulgarian schools has so far been refused, as it was found that it cloaked a desire to obtain firmer control over these institutions.

Albania

The Albanian national movement has continued to gain strength during the year under review, the demand for the establishment of schools and general improvement in education has been constantly heard, and the movement has been given a dangerous turn by the uncompromising attitude and repressive measures adopted by the Government.

On the 26th January the Northern Albanians presented the authorities with a petition setting forth their programme of demands under the following heads. Recognition by the central Government of Albanian nationality, the introduction of obligatory instruction in Albanian throughout the districts of Uscub, Monastir, and Scutari, the establishment of Albanian as the administrative language in the provinces, obligatory military service, but within the province only, a Governor-General of Albanian race and an independent budget. Other demands were put forward at another meeting at Mulnik in the same month for the bestowal of land on the peasants by Parliament, the punishment of old regime officials, insurance against bad harvests, improvement in roads and schools, and the adoption of the Latin

alphabet. No answer was made to these demands, and in the end of February a secret meeting was held in the Bektashi monastery of Janina at which it was believed that Albanian autonomy was definitely claimed.

No disturbance of the bessa, or guarantee of peace, signed in the previous August for a period of a year, had, however, occurred, and everything pointed to the determination of the Albanians to keep their word. Not satisfied to leave well alone, however, the Government began from early in March sending small detachments up to the Ipek and Lyuma districts in order to hunt down the famous outlaws Bolyetinatz and Hussein Dats of Dibra, who were suspected of instigating revolutionary and reactionary movements. The outlaws escaped into the mountains, and the expeditions did not achieve their end. No resistance was offered by the Albanians who had sheltered the outlaws, nevertheless, a further expedition was ordered to proceed under Djavid Pasha with reinforcements and mountain guns to make a military tour through Northern Albania and overawe the district.

The choice of Djavid was in itself unlucky, he had formerly been Mutessarif of Ipek, and had been removed from the post on account of the unceasing complaints made by the Albanians against his administration, and it was therefore not unnatural to attribute to his thirst for revenge the summary execution of the very stringent orders of repression which he undoubtedly received in the first place from the central Government, these orders, which in the opinion of the vali of Salonica and other local officials whose advice should have been of value, were merely calculated to exasperate the Albanians, included the collection of the sheep tax and arrears of other taxation, wholesale repression of opposition, and the destruction of the kulas or fortified watch towers, the disarming and census taking of the population. Djavid Pasha started out from Mitrovitza in April and making a tour through the country passing by Ipek and Yakova, carried out his instructions as best he could with due severity, destroyed several villages and some 100 kulés, collected some taxes and arrears, and returned to Mitrovitza about the middle of June. As soon as his back was turned disturbances recommenced. The result of the tour was what might have been expected, the Albanians were enraged at the gratuitous severity of the measures taken under no provocation. The Albanians of Malissia showed defiance, and Djavid Pasha would have started out again at once for Prizrena and Lyuma, but that his forces were too much weakened and depleted for him to carry out his intention. The revival of unquiet in Albania, brought on by the Government's policy, nevertheless necessitated some fresh steps, and after a brigand attack on the Austrian consul at Prizrend on the 6th August, fresh troops were again despatched to the Lyuma district where they occupied Bitza on the 14th and on the assembling of a large number of Albanians in the neighbourhood they were forced to retreat again. The retirement of the troops was regarded as a retreat by the rebels who proceeded to burn the Government buildings in the district as soon as they had gone. Though Djavid Pasha endeavoured to represent that quiet had been restored at Lyuma, the central Government ordered him to continue operations until all Northern Albania was pacified, and on receiving reinforcements he continued his desultory fighting for some time longer, marched into Lyuma in September, took about 100 prisoners, destroyed some villages, and killed about 300 Albanians. The Albanians had by now lost their fear of the guns and made bold attempts to capture them, though many houses were burnt and villages bombarded no much damage done. Djavid Pasha's measures were so far from pacifying the district that on his final withdrawal in October he brought away all the local principal chiefs with him and there was talk of entirely evacuating the country. Lyuma and Ipek districts remained undisturbed, and the Government's policy of severity having failed, it was decided on the advice of the vali Mazhar Bey to try milder measures. In November a scapegoat was made of the vali of Janina in the south on the ground of his having done nothing to cope with the existing difficulties, and in December a first attempt was made to carry out the new policy of conciliation in the projected despatch from Constantinople of a mission headed by Suleyman Pasha, a senator, and composed chiefly of Albanian deputies, to preach peace and moderation among the Albanians of Scutari, Janina, and Cossovo.

While the northern Albanians had remained too engrossed in their mountain warfare to care much about events at Constantinople, those of the south greeted the change of Sultans with mild enthusiasm although at first suspicious of the effect which the counter-revolution would have upon their own aspirations. At Uscub a feeble effort was made to bring about a reactionary movement early in May, it was

found out in time, many arrests were made and numbers of hodjas, some officers and reactionaries were dispatched to Constantinople for trial. At Monastir the accession of the new Sultan was greeted with general enthusiasm, though the Greeks and Bulgars remained cool, some outbreak was feared among the garrison in combination with the Albanian malcontents and, to prevent this, Fahri Bey, the vali, successfully negotiated a bessa, or guarantee of peace, for three months with the latter at Dibra, having few faithful troops at his command with which to keep order otherwise.

On the expiry of this bessa being still without sufficient forces, the vali cleverly manipulated a congress of Albanians which met at Dibra in July in such a way that the Albanian interests which were to have been the primary subject of discussion were more or less swamped by the Young Turkish orators, and the resolutions eventually passed laid down that the Albanians did not desire autonomy, that the constitution was not contrary to the Koran that they were loyal to the constitution and would accept military service, while no reference was made to the thorny questions of brigandage, and payment of regular taxes. The committee members wisely preferred not to risk turning their victory into a defeat by raising these. The questions of the alphabet to be adopted and of education were also touched upon, and were further discussed at another Albanian congress which assembled at Elbassan early in October. As the authorities had used the former congress to gain time, so they made use of this latter one to accentuate the divergences in the views of the Tosks and Ghegs upon the subjects discussed. The congress showed however that the educational movement had greatly developed. Since the reopening of the schools in 1908 their numbers had increased from about half a dozen to forty and thirty to forty clubs had also been formed. The Albanians were coming more and more under the influence of the Bektashi philosophy, expressed readiness to be on friendly terms with Bulgars and Vlachs and had no quarrel in principle with the Committee of Union and Progress. But complained that the practice of their officials differed very greatly from what they preached.

As in the Adrianople vilayet, the outlook became gloomier as the summer drew to a close, dissatisfaction was increasing with regard to Hilmi's administration, and the spectre of liberal ideas caused unrest and discontent with the committee party. Quiet reigned all the same throughout the district until after Ramazan, when brigandage again began to infest the country but no serious disturbances of a political nature took place.

Asiatic Turkey

Anatolia — Adana.

The winter of 1908-9 passed quietly in the provinces of Anatolia, though the population suffered greatly from the result of a bad harvest, and in many parts subscriptions had to be opened to carry the starving people through the cold season. Outwardly the establishment of the constitutional regime had so far produced no improvement in the condition of things, for the Moslems were growing surly and discontented at the new order of things which brought them no advantage whatever, while their neighbours, the Christians and particularly the Armenians were benefiting in many ways by the greater liberty allowed to them and were busily importing arms and ammunition, in the first instance, for self defence, and later on in a aggressive and self assertive vein of enthusiasm which led them to discourse on the greatness of the Armenian race and on the eventual establishment of an Armenian principality. The more they armed and the more they talked the more they aroused the anxiety and alarm of the Turkish population who fancied they detected in the aspirations of the Armenians in the gospel preached by their Hunchak society and in the exhortations to arm, known to be going on throughout the country by the Gregorian Bishop of Mersina who as it afterwards appeared had a commercial interest in the sale of firearms, an intention to be revenged on themselves and to wipe their race off the face of the earth. The relations of the two races grew more strained as the whisperings of fanatics and reactionary agents were added to the fuel that was piling up for the fire. Sorrowful was the whole aspect of affairs in the early spring that the reform commission constituted by Government at the instance of the Armenian Patriarch the previous autumn to make a tour of inspection, remove corrupt officials, restore land illegally seized and introduce various administrative reforms, resigned in a body before they had even started, realising the hopelessness of the task before them.

Meanwhile the freedom allowed by the constitutional Government in purchase and carriage of arms had led to several instances of crimes, perpetrated sometimes as a novelty, by Armenians against Turks, and the hopelessness and incapacity of the Government officials was made clear to everyone in the tardiness and failure to arrest such criminals as were known to be at all popular. The strained tension of the situation became unbearable, the sense of insecurity and nervousness all through the provinces reached such a pitch that only a spark was required to set alight the conflagration.

On the 8th April everything at Konia and Adana was perfectly quiet to all outward appearances, on the 13th and 14th reports were already spreading through the provinces of startling events which were occurring in the capital. On the night of the 14th an incident took place at Adana between an Armenian and two Turks, who were shot down by him as they were endeavouring to abduct his wife, and immediately the whole town was in an uproar. During the whole of the 15th and 16th the place was given over to complete chaos, murder, theft, and robbery. Warned by the first sound of firing, the Armenians rushed to their own quarter, where they barricaded themselves and made a good stand against the attacks of the Turks, who hunted them out from every corner and house top and murdered every one of them that they could lay hands on, goaded on by hodjas and reactionaries. The vali and Turk were paralysed with fright, and retired to the shelter of the konak, making no effort to call out the soldiers, who could easily have quelled the mob, or to calm the storm. The only person who exercised any influence in the place was Major Doughty Wylie His Majesty's vice-consul at Mersina who had arrived early on the 15th in response to an urgent summons and who, with the few soldiers whom he could get the authorities to place at his disposal, paraded the town, rescuing foreigners, placing guards over foreign schools and missions, and putting a stop to the fighting wherever he went. During the two days of his strenuous efforts the fighting continued, two American missionaries were killed, he himself was wounded accidentally in the arm, and an immense amount of damage was done by looting villagers, by soldiers who joined in the fray, and by the foreign population. On the 16th the Turk had committed the fatal mistake of taking out the reserves who, unorganised in their ordinary clothes, joined in the fighting, and it was only on the 17th that the vali and Major Doughty Wylie were at length able to prevail on the Moslem notables and hodjas to agree to make peace with the Armenian priests and civilians. From the morning of the 17th the work of rescue and relief began, and by the 19th the town of Adana was quiet again, and although the state of affairs remained serious for some time longer, the arrival about the 25th of several British and foreign war-ships at Mersina and Alexandretta did much towards restoring the confidence of the non-Moslem population. But the movement started there was spreading far and wide over the neighbouring districts.

Simultaneously with the outbreak at Adana, and almost as though by prearrangement among the Moslem population, a brutal attack was made early on the 15th at the village of Bogtche upon the Armenian inhabitants. They had received warning of the previous night of what was afoot and had assembled in the European quarter. Here, unresisting, they were set upon by a crowd of savage Moslems; priests were dragged from the shelter of a Protestant house, women and children savagely maltreated and butchered, 700 Armenian houses entirely destroyed, and, abetted by the authorities and soldiery the 1700 there had been left every living Armenian from the place. Similar scenes though not so utterly severe, were enacted at Tarsus, where the massacres were carried on the 16th by a party of 400 men, who came over specially for the purpose from Adana, at Payas, where the prisons were opened and a motley rabble let loose, at Deortyol where 10,000 Christian refugees were exposed for twelve days to a siege by the Moslem natives before troops could be sent to their relief, Marash, Sis, Kars, Hamidieh, and Kessab on the 17th and 18th, while on the 25th 300 Armenians were slaughtered at Antioch before order could be restored by the news of the arrival of a British war-ship. Terrible panics occurred at Aleppo, Antab, and other towns near, and at Konia, Cesarea, and even Beirout there were some periods of grave alarm, but in most cases the local authorities, and notably the Mutessarif of Marash among them, by vigorous measures and show of determination were able to prevent excesses or actual outbreaks until the arrival either of fresh troops or of detachments from foreign warships, or until the news reached the provinces of the deposition of the Sultan and the ultimate victory of the Constitutional party and Young Turk regime. At Hadjin, where some American lady missionaries were shut up, it was entirely due to the valiant defence

of the Christians in the town that a total massacre by the bashi bazouks of the surrounding country was averted

By the 25th April the fierceness of the carnage was abating, and just as in the capital the period of suspense and uncertainty came to an end with the entry of the army, so in the provinces the reign of uncontrolled licence was abruptly closed on the restoration of some sort of authority at Constantinople The vali of Adana, Djevad Bey who shared with the Ferik Mustapha Remzi Bey the responsibility for the disorders through their paralysed and criminal inactivity was dismissed from his post, fresh troops were dispatched from the Roumelian army, and the local authorities began to face the grave and pressing problem of relief and shelter for the houseless and orphaned refugees But suddenly on the evening of the 25th soon after the arrival of the new forces rifle shots were heard in the Armenian quarter, and in a moment the town was once more in a blaze All night long the murdering, looting, and burning of houses and property went on, and by the time Major Doughty Wylie had obtained some assistance from the vali next day, under menaces of foreign intervention half the town, including hospitals, churches, and mission buildings, had been burnt down some hundreds or perhaps thousands of Armenians had been killed, and about 10 000 wretched, roofless people were hustling for refuge and shelter in the factory buildings

To lay the responsibility for the Adana massacres at the door of the ex Sultan, as was at first done, is now impossible no evidence of any sort has been produced to incriminate His Majesty or Izzet Pasha, though there can be no doubt that a number of hodjas or reactionaries did all they could to fan the flame of Moslem fanaticism. Nor is there any ground to assume that the Armenians were planning an insurrection, or that the Moslems had been preparing a carefully planned total massacre The causes of the massacre are rather to be found in the vain glorious talk of equality on the part of the young Armenians who were in their every revolutionaries and advocates of home rule, in the fear which their attitude inspired among the Moslems of some definite act of aggression, a fear which was somewhat justified by the constant stream of arms which flowed into the country for the use of the anti Moslem population, in the extravagance of the rumours on both sides and in the lamentable weakness of the Government authority Through these causes came the events of the 13th April in the capital, and the murder of two Turks by an Armenian as a pretext for the outbreak at that particular time, and once the massacres had begun it is evident that the Government were encouraging the slaughter and urging them on to plunder and kill

The outbreak of the second massacres in Adana gave rise at the time to ugly stories of the complicity of the Roumelian troops, there is no truth in these reports, it was in the city started by some desperate Hunchakist revolutionaries, who in the wild hope of provoking foreign interference, attacked and killed fifteen Roumelian soldiers newly arrived and posted in the Armenian quarter, and it was chiefly owing to the soldiers ignorance of the topography of the town that the bashi bazouks and other rascals were able to do so much under cover of night and continue the interrupted work of plunder, murder, and arson

No reliable figures have been as yet produced of the total casualties during the massacres, in Adana alone 2,400 bodies, of which 600 were stated to be Moslems, were buried, and many more were thrown into the river, the Turkish Government subsequently issued an official estimate of 5,500 casualties for the whole district, but this is clearly grossly underestimated and the figure should probably be somewhere between 15 000 20,000 The numbers of homeless and refugees were equally formidable Adana alone Major D Wylie, who mustated, with the valuable assistance of his wife in hospital and medical work, the relief and refugee camp measures, had 15 000 destitute Armenians to provide for requiring an expenditure of some 200£ daily in food and absolute necessities The Government made an initial grant of 30,000£ for the relief work, and subsequently Parliament voted two further sums of 100,000£ each for the rebuilding the burnt quarters, housing the roofless population, caring for the orphans, and purchasing land and giving capital sums to small farmers and merchants to set them up again in business Various relief commissions were formed, Ottoman and international, and their hands were kept busy all through the summer Though the Ottoman Commission seem lamentably mismanaged the original 30,000 granted early left 13,000 entirely unaccounted for, the arrival of an energetic new vali in August contributed to advance the work in every way, and to keep the money votes under more rigorous control, while the International Committee under the presidency of Major D Wylie has successfully disposed of all the encamped refugees

in the reconstructed dwellings when on the 14th November a fresh disaster descended on the ill fated town in the form of a great flood, which was caused by the bursting of a dyke just above the town in consequence of heavy rains Fortunately the quarter of the town most seriously threatened had been cleared of its inhabitants the same day, and no loss of life ensued, but the water stood some 4 feet or 5 feet in some places, about 500 of the newly erected mud-huts were washed away and the fresh losses suffered included the total destruction of the harvest which had just been stored and which was valued at 100,000£ Of the enormous losses inflicted by the actual massacres in April there are no statistics, but it is estimated that the revenues of the district which usually amount to 2 000 000£ will be reduced to less than 500,000£

The losses inflicted on foreign subjects during the period of the massacres were considerable, the French German United States and Italian Governments have approached the Turkish Government with a view to obtaining compensation for the damage done to the property of their subjects, but the Turkish Government have represented all responsibility on the plea of *force majeure* and have recommended that individuals who have suffered such losses should take their claim, remedy through the law courts The foreign Powers are considering further action, either by united representations or by submission of the question to arbitration His Majesty's Government have up to the present taken no steps to recover compensation for the injury done to British interests amounting to many thousands of pounds sterling, in consideration of the failure of the other Powers to obtain any such compensation The Armenian patriarch after vain appeals to the Central Government has supported the Armenians in bringing cases and their claims against the insurance companies the majority of which are British institutions The representatives of these companies were engaged in discussing the means of granting some compensation voluntarily to the sufferers, when a circular was sent by the Government ordering them to make good the damage suffered by the fires This decided to run against any *ex gratia* donation and a test case is now before the courts

The parliamentary enquiry into the persons responsible for the massacres, inflicting punishment and soothing the district was the first which faced the Government on its reconstitution after the troubles of April A new vali Mustapha Zihni appointed hurriedly immediately after the massacres arrived at Adana the last day of April Gen. Mahmud Ali was dispatched at the same time from Beyrout to Adana as ferik For the first few weeks of their regime the vali and military acting on the belief which was shared by the Camber that the Armenians all been plotting to stop an independent principality showed a great partiality in favour of the Moslem element Some 300 arrests of Armenians were made and troops were poured into the district a commission of enquiry was formed, which included among its members such men as Bagdad and there to discuss the ringleaders of the troubles and martial law proclaimed but while the Governmental set out a civil commission of enquiry and courts-martial were established at Adana from Constantinople, it was soon evident which had been the scene of massacres, a fierce spirit of partiality began to prevail, the vali was assisted as being a partisan of the Armenians, the examination was at first directed to trials of the Government officials some 200 further arrests also Adana itself the total number of prisoners were officially stated to be 250 Moslems and 750 Christians The Armenians became emboldened to give free vent to their hatred, and the members of the courts martial were greatly impressed by the statements furnished to them by His Majesty's Consul and the American missionaries who had remained during the troubles About this time a series of hangings began of more or less insignificant Moslems and Armenians who could not be regarded as the prime movers in the massacres and whose execution created a profound and unfortunate impression throughout the district which would preclude all further excesses but for the strict military rule which was maintained Gradually, however, it became borne in upon the Government by the reports of the Parliamentary Commission on their return from Adana, by the representations of His Majesty's Government and other Powers and by the mass of evidence which was now available that the Armenians were innocent of having had the outbreak, and that the local authorities were solely responsible for the spread of the massacres in Adana itself and throughout the district It was also borne home that in these circumstances, after various dissensions between the civil and military commissions and among the members of the court martials themselves had been overcome and delayed, that the trial of the ex-vali and ferik ordered in September merely in their consideration to

loss of their civil rights and to a period of six months imprisonment in the case of the latter. The mildness of these sentences has been explained in many quarters by the statement, which has obtained general credence, that the vali did warn the Hilmi Cabinet of the gravity of the situation, but that no attention was paid at the time to his reports. At the same time Bagdadi, the editor of the fanatical "Ittidal," and several other well-known agitators were exiled for short periods, and a new vali, Djemal Bey, an energetic and capable young Turk, arrived to replace Mustapha Zihni. Upon the further condemnation to death of forty Armenians, the Armenian patriarch in Constantinople sent in his resignation. He was supported by all his followers and, though twenty-nine of the sentences were commuted to penal servitude, he refused to reconsider his decision until the Government frankly admitted the responsibility of the ex-vali and ferik by having them suitably punished, and exonerated individual Armenians and others from blame. The Government resented this interference and were not strong enough to take a decided line in the matter; and the patriarch remained in a condition of quasi-resignation, despite all efforts at reconciliation, till the end of the year. During the month of Ramazan the hangings ceased and the new vali devoted his energies to restoring order and quiet through the country and reconciling the Christian and Moslem elements. In December some twenty-five more Turks were hanged, bringing the total number of hangings up to forty-three, and under military rule the country settled down. But discontent at the Government's attitude over the massacres was shared alike by Moslems and Armenians and in fact it became so strong as to cause it to be generally believed that the resignation of Hilmi Pasha from the position of Grand Vizier was brought about as a result of this dissatisfaction, especially on the part of Moslems who resented the hangings of so many of their co-religionists, while the Armenians went practically free. There can be no doubt that a return to normal conditions was from the first unnecessarily delayed by the weak and uncertain position of the Government at Constantinople, which was manifested in their vacillating policy in the provinces, by the constant changing of officials, by their failure to make an example of the criminal feebleness of their own provincial officials and by the dragging out of a series of executions which kept alive Moslem fanaticism and led to a constant recrudescence of restlessness and panic among the whole population.

Van

The news of the troubles at Constantinople and of the deposition of the Sultan was received quietly throughout the other provinces of Anatolia in general. Even in Van, where the paramount spirit of reaction was stimulated by the new activity of the revolutionary Armenian Tashnakist Society, and their atheistic propaganda and importation of arms, as well as by the efforts which were beginning to be made to bring Moslem and Kurdish chiefs to task for past injustices and depredations, the authorities, though themselves Young Turks by order rather than by inclination, were able to prevent any serious disorders. The old reactionary Hamidieh regiments were gradually disbanded in the spring, and reconstituted at the end of the year on a territorial basis, and the vali an enlightened and able man, worked hard to clear the district of some of its worst features, chief among which were the unruly and semi-independent dominion exercised by the half-savage border sheikhs and Kurdish chiefs. The truth is that the remoter parts of the country are quite unready for constitutional government, the Kurds require strict task masters to keep them in order, and all the officials except the vali, are reactionary in their sympathies. Some slight improvement has, nevertheless, been achieved during the year as regards the position of the non-Moslem population. The local committee, whose tone was also at first reactionary, was taken over by the officers of the garrison, who paved the way for a sort of reconciliation with the Tashnakist Society, and an attempt was made to bring the Kurds and Armenians to terms in October in the convocation of the former's chiefs to Van, where they signed a resolution to remain on friendly terms with the Armenians, to restore to them any lands of which the title-deeds could be produced, and to join them in opening schools and improving general conditions.

Diarbekir

At Diarbekir the Kurds openly declared for the Sheri law on the receipt of the news of revolt from Constantinople, and it was only due to the tactful and quiet attitude of the Christians, and the arrival of troops from the Dersim, and to the stringent measures of the vali and ferik, that riots were prevented both in Diarbekir

itself and in the district generally. The accession of the new Sultan was greeted in the town with great enthusiasm, but at Siirt, Mousli, and other neighbouring towns the sheikhs intrigued violently against the new regime and the constant change of officials contributed to keep the province in a state of unrest. Successful operations were conducted through the summer against the Dersim tribe, who by September were pacified and reduced, and the Mushir Ibrahim Pasha then turned his attention to and subdued the Kizil Kilisse clan, collected taxes due and made it possible by the end of the year for a commission to be formed to consider the construction of roads, which would open up the whole region.

At the end of December a fresh punitive expedition was sent out against the turbulent Shamar tribe, while the new vali, Ghalib Bey, was energetically engaged at Diarbekir in purging the gendarmerie, police, and administrative departments of corrupt officials, and impressing the population with his zeal for reform. The chief obstacle in this, as in every district throughout the land, is the difficulty of finding any better men to replace the older officials.

Erzeroum

The vilayet of Erzeroum, where, on the whole, the relations between Moslems and Armenians were more friendly than in either of the other vilayets, was the only Anatolian province, besides Adana, in which the reactionary movement for a moment got the upper hand, for the first few days after the 23rd April the committee was supreme, and the IVth Army Corps were preparing to march on Constantinople to maintain the constitution, but suddenly on the 26th, a number of soldiers, mostly of the fortress artillery, got out of control, discarded their officers, and paraded the town, demanding the restoration of the Sheri law, still there was no attempt at massacres, the military revolt was carried out in an orderly manner, and was evidently directed far more against the unpopular officers than against non-Moslems or foreigners. Moderation was displayed on all sides, some 150 of the ringleaders were quietly arrested by the Mushir, who arrived in the town from a punitive expedition just at this time, and the remaining three battalions, whose loyalty was doubtful, were dispatched for service in the Dersim. The restoration of the constitution continued to have a good effect on the provinces once the excitement had quieted down in the spring, as elsewhere the Kurds were sullenly dissatisfied at the measures taken to recover stolen lands and to bring their leaders to justice, but they remained passive for the most part, and the Armenians were encouraged to return to the district, which has already gained by their agriculture activity, the administration began slowly to improve and prosperity was reviving. The vali has devoted his energies to quieting the country and promoting good relations among all classes, as in many other provinces however he has not been backed up by the Central Government, and the forces at his disposal have not been sufficient to keep the turbulent Kurdish raiders in any state of real subjection.

Aidin.

The vilayet of Aidin has been quiet, except for the revival of brigandage, particularly in the neighbourhood of Smyrna. The Bands Law which was drawn up originally for application in the European provinces, was extended to this vilayet, and the new vali, Mahmud Moukhtar, was authorised to take all steps possible to hunt down the notorious Tchakerdjali and other brigands. No success has attended his efforts up to the present. In November a young English resident of Smyrna was set upon almost at his own door by a band of ruffians, and, Tchakerdjali and other bands being still at large, the country is extremely insecure and the population are complaining bitterly of the Government's want of energy.

At Aivali an uproar occurred in the summer in which the British vice-consul was accidentally molested by some Turkish soldiers dispatched to restore order and bring the Greeks, whose objections to disarming had caused the turmoil, to their senses. Hellenic organisations have been active in this district and especially in the islands, so much so that the Government were compelled to send some troops to Mitylene in the spring in order to overawe the Greek Nationalist agitators.

Syria

From Syria there is little to record. The superior education of the people of Beirout enabled them to appreciate the advantages of a more liberal and progressive

régime. Here, as in Damascus and other cities of Syria, commissions were formed of equal numbers of Moslem and Christian members to consider important questions of reform, such as the revision of the cadastre, construction of roads, collection of taxes, instruction, and public security, but their conclusions were invariably hampered by lack of funds to execute them. Several strikes occurred, on the part of cabmen and customs hamals, but they were easily quelled. The Mahommedan Union acquired considerable power in Damascus at first, but when that society was dissolved by order in June its members mostly enrolled themselves in the party of the Committee of Union and Progress and the peace was not at any time disturbed. Even the Druzes have given less trouble than usual this year. A famous robber band was captured by the police early in the spring and since then, except for a raid upon a neighbouring village in April, in consequence of which they were compelled to pay up compensation of 4,000*l*., they have made themselves but little heard of.

The Lebanon.

The Lebanon has continued to enjoy some measure of prosperity under its privileged constitution. It has shown its determination to maintain its privileges at every opportunity and is likely to grow more and more separatist at heart as the Turkish Government develops its theory of giving the whole Empire equal treatment in administration abolishing all privileges, and introducing absolute uniformity. Already the Lebanese have appealed to the Powers to move the Turkish Government to give their harbours on the coast the character of free ports, and have protested violently against the application of the press law to their domain. The latter claim appears to have no justification, as the law does not infringe their privileges, but in any case, the Powers have not considered it advisable to press the Government too far on these delicate questions, as the Turks are peculiarly sensitive to foreign interference and claim that it is unfair to hamper them in their endeavours to extend to every portion of the Empire the principles which are contemplated in the conception of a constitutional régime.

Samos.

The same difficulty has been met by certain of the foreign Powers in dealing with petitions from the inhabitants of Samos, the Sporades, and other outlying parts of the Empire, nor has it seemed judicious in either of the above-cited cases to do more than make unofficial and friendly representations to show the Turkish Government that the Powers are not unaware of the fact that the Samiotes are dissatisfied with their princely rule and that the other islanders will be driven to emigrate if they are compelled to give up their fishing industry in order to do military service.

General Outlook in the Asiatic Provinces.

The general outlook in the provinces at the end of 1909 is not altogether a bright one. On the one hand, a weak and apathetic Central Government uncertain of its own position and unable to trust its own officials and military forces on the other, a small number of liberal minded and enterprising young valis and kaimakams, whose whole-hearted and earnest efforts at reform are hampered at every turn by an army of corrupt officials, by lack of money means, or forces, and by the intrigues of the reactionaries, dismissed functionaries, agitators, and fanatics. To back their efforts they have no good men nor any system of education from which they may hope to obtain trained administrative recruits; while among the difficulties to be faced are the suspicions of the Kurds and Moslems in face of the new conditions, the unproved condition of the non-Moslem peoples and their recommencement to smuggle in arms and ammunition, the alternate arrogance and panic of the Greeks and Turks, the unreadiness of the remoter provinces for any form of liberal government; the outcry of the privileged districts against their inclusion in the sphere of the new constitutional régime, the complaints of the insecurity prevailing from recrudescence of Kurdish raids and brigandage, the existing poverty and commercial stagnation; the lack of any definite and permanent policy on the part of the central administration, and the constant movement and change among the officials themselves.

Bagdad, Bussorah, and Mosul.

The spring of 1909 has witnessed the usual disturbances among the Arabs along the Tigris and Euphrates, against the recurrence of which the authorities had

meanwhile taken no measures whatever. These disturbances are mainly of local interest, and have a personal rather than a political origin. The disorders which broke out in February and March on the Lower Tigris, at the instigation of the Sheikhs of Mohammerah and Kowet, ceased suddenly in the latter month, when the Vali of Bussorah was superseded, and there is every reason to believe that these unruly chiefs had sent down their hands from the Beni Lam and Abu Mohammerah tribes to work havoc in Bussorah and the neighbourhood out of spite against the vali on account of his hostile attitude over the question of registering land transfers. The vali had opposed the acquisition by the sheikhs of any more house or land property in the city, and they, in revenge created all manner of disturbances until he was removed.

Meanwhile the movements of the nomad Arab tribes further up the river had become so alarming as to induce His Majesty's consul-general at Bagdad to ask for a British gunboat to be sent to Bussorah early in April, in case of attacks on European lives or property. From early in March the traffic on the Mesopotamian rivers had been much impeded by constant attacks from Arabs from the shores. The river steamers running between Bussorah and Bagdad, both of the Lynch and French lines, were constantly being fired on, the telegraph wires were cut, and it became necessary to send armed escorts with the passenger vessels. Early in April all postal communication was broken off, and the river banks were so beset by Arab rebels that it was dangerous for steamers to start at all. At this point the authorities at last decided that something must be done to restore a semblance of order, and several Turkish gunboats were sent up the Tigris to Amara, where troops and guns were landed under command of Yussuf Pasha, and after a shameful defeat on the 8th April by a rabble of Beni Lam and Mohammerah Arabs, these rebellious tribes were eventually reduced to some sort of submission by the aid of a friendly Arab chief, who carried out the necessary operations for their incapable Turkish allies. As a result of these measures traffic on the Tigris could be resumed, the gunboat "Bagdad" was able to leave Bagdad on the 17th April, without encountering any more trouble, and Lynch steamers resumed their journeys on the Euphrates and Tigris on the 26th April and 4th May respectively for the first time since the middle of March.

The cause of all the disturbances was again a question of land registration, accentuated by local rivalries. On the expiry of a lease of land at Kumait, which had been held by the powerful and turbulent chief, Gadhan, the Turkish authorities incurred his wrath by taking the land away from him and leasing it to the agent of his great enemy, the Sheikh of Mohammerah. Gadhan's revenge was to stir up the Beni Lam and other tribes to obstruct the river navigation, while the Sheikh of Mohammerah himself having ousted a rival and gained great prestige among the neighbouring tribes, proceeded in turn to create disorders among the Albu Muhammerah tribe, in order to punish the Turks for their refusal to grant him certain other leases at Bussorah and in Arabia.

Yussuf Pasha, besides being an impudent and incapable leader was greatly hampered in his military measures by the extraordinarily ill-trained mutinous rabble of which his regiments in the VIth Army Corps were composed, and by the withdrawal of a number of them to Constantinople to combine with troubles in the capital. Once, however, master of the river banks, through the aid of the Muhammerah tribe, he installed Gadhan's son in Kumait and agreed to arrange a friendly negotiation about further leases. Order was accordingly restored for the time. In June an order was issued approving Gadhan and Fahd of the heads of the Beni Lam and Albu Mohammerah tribes in consequence of their revolt. They were outlawed and their property sequestered, but the all-important question of disarming the Arab tribes remained untouched. A further order, aiming at the extinction of the Arab feudal system was issued, in virtue of which land was to be leased in small holdings to farmers and others, and not in large properties to powerful sheikhs; but it became a dead letter as soon as issued, and if the land did not fall to the said sheikhs it went at any rate to their sons.

No further disturbances occurred during the summer, but the general feeling was one of unrest and the accession of the new Sultan gave rise to grave fears for the maintenance of Moslem supremacy. The growing wealth and influence of the Jews in Mesopotamia has contributed also to the discontent, they have got all the trade into their hands, and by invading the better quarters of the town and offering liberal prices they have succeeded in bringing on themselves the hatred of the Moslem population—a sentiment which they heartily reciprocate.

Towards the end of the year reports have come in of more unrest among the

Arabs at Bussorah and along the Euphrates and the Government, recalling the supine vali, Shevket Pasha, have appointed as his successor General Nazim Pasha, from whom great things are expected as regards the pacification of the vilayet. Nazim Pasha had not left for his post before the end of the year, desiring before his departure to obtain permission to have a free hand and to select carefully beforehand the staff of officials whom he will take with him to aid him in the execution of his task.

The vilayet of Mosul has been full of trouble. Early in the spring a collision took place in the town between some troops and the adherents of a vicious old Kurdish Shaikh, Sayyid, who was on his way to Constantinople to answer for his long unpunished depredations, robberies, and murders in the district of Suleymaneh. In the scuffle which ensued from some quarrel about a Moslem woman the old sheikh, one son and forty followers were killed. The other son, Mahmoud was allowed to escape to Kerkuk, in consideration of the threatening attitude of the Kurds, and from Kerkuk he set to work to rouse the formidable Hamawend tribe, who had always been firm allies of his father, to further raids and disorders in the Suleymaneh and Persian frontier districts.

The Hamawends willingly answered the summons, and their raids and robberies became so flagrant that in the month of June the vali was instructed to proceed with a punitive force against them. Before his preparations had been completed the vali had however been induced to direct his energies in another quarter.

A deadly feud had arisen between two neighbouring Arab sheikhs, Barzani and Osman Agha. The latter, anxious to rid himself of his rival, enlisted the assistance of a powerful friend, Saloonji Pasha, a notorious intriguer and reactionary who was at the same time a member of the administrative council, kept open house to all comers in Mosul and knew how to make use of his position. With Saloonji's assistance it was represented that Barzani was a dangerous and turbulent chief, who held all Acra district under a reign of terror and the vali was prevailed on to proceed in the first instance against the miscreant.

After a campaign lasting nearly three months, in the course of which many villages were unnecessarily ravished, and all Barzanis efforts at parleying sternly rejected, the expedition returned to Mosul worsted, having cost some 50,000*l*., and achieved no success against the sheikh. Driven to despair by the line of policy adopted, Barzani now attacked his foes, and a fresh expedition has to be organised against him in December, which includes all the troops available in Mosul, and the result of which is still unknown.

The rest of the vilayet thus remained exposed to every sort of raid and robbery, round Suleymaneh the Hamawends render the whole district unsafe for travel or trade, and they have recently to cross over into Persia when hard pressed. The Dlem Arabs are sweeping right up to Mosul itself, and the Kurds and Zekko tribes are emboldened to follow their example. There is no prospect of progress or development in a district where internal security is so perpetually disturbed.

The Government have contravened their avowed principles of toleration and equality to all Ottoman subjects in their refusal to allow a number of villages at Telkaish, at present converts of the Chaldean Roman Catholic Church, to return to their original Nestorian faith and to have their bishop consecrated by the Mar Shimun. The villagers have sent in appeals for aid to His Majesty's vice-consul at Mosul, but His Majesty's Government have not thought it advisable to interfere in any way in an internal question of this nature.

The Nejd, Yemen, and Hedjaz

The Nejd continued during the early months of this year to be the scene of the ancient feud between Sa'id ibn-Rashid, the young Emir of Hail, and his rival, Ibn Saoud. The former assisted by his uncle, Hamoud-ibn-Selhan, having united and consolidated the Shamar and other Nejd tribes under his leadership, marched against Ibn Saoud, who was then at Kassim. No encounter, however, took place until the month of May, when, after some fighting among their respective adherents in the Hail and Shamar tribes, Ibn Rashid came upon his enemy, who had been attacking some of his supporters in the vicinity of Kassim, pursued and routed him, killing 200 of his followers. No further fighting has occurred since this date, but Ibn Saoud's influence has been steadily waning and his adherents falling off, so that by the end of the year Ibn Rashid has been able to win over the greater part of the Nejd tribes to his rule.

The work on the Hedjaz Railway has, as usual, been considerably interfered with and impeded during this year by the attacks of the Bedouin Arabs, to whom the construction of the line will mean a dead loss in respect of the carrying trade, which is their only form of profession. The daily depredations of these tribes, their systematic cutting of telegraph wires, removal of sleepers, and general obstructiveness became so annoying that in the month of March it was found necessary to send some troops against them, and the trade and communications of the cities of Mecca and Jeddah became completely stagnant. The measures taken by the authorities proved insufficient to awe the tribes, and unless the Government are prepared to face a regular guerilla warfare there seems little likelihood of the railway advancing beyond Medina. The arrival of a new vali, Feiza Pasha, in July was timed to coincide with a display of some military energy in repressing a Arab revolt headed by a certain Mahomed Ali in Mecca itself; but outside the city the state of insecurity continued throughout the summer, mails were robbed, pilgrims attacked, and the Arabs even came close enough in force of their raids to fire on Medina railway station. The country round Jeddah was in the autumn infested by the Harb tribe, whose seizure of the baggage belonging to some 150 Indian pilgrims caused His Majesty's consul at Jeddah to put in a claim for compensation to the authorities, and make severe representations as to the chaotic condition of the country. Partly in consequence of these representations troops were sent out against the Harb, who submitted towards the end of the year, restored some dhows which they had seized, and left the country somewhat more secure.

As regards the pilgrim season the year was distinguished by the presence of the Khedive at the Mecca pilgrimage, escorted by a body of 150 Egyptian cavalry and some Turkish troops. His Highness's journey made some stir in the Arab world, and gave rise to rumours of his intention to purchase and run the Hedjaz line, supported financially by Sir E. Cassel's group.

The Yemen has been in a perpetual state of unrest throughout the past year, and has, like the other centres of Arab population, gained from the new constitutional régime only the idea and aspiration of obtaining practical autonomy and freeing itself from Turkish rule. Hardly had the new governor, Hassan Tahsin Pasha, arrived at his post in the first days of January than he was compelled to set out on a punitive expedition against the Zeraneck tribe, a powerful nomad clan, who for the past seven years had been molesting the trade of all the country about Hodeidah making incessant raids on caravans and committing acts of piracy on British and other shipping. The expedition which, supported by two Turkish gunboats patrolling the Red Sea was successful in taking the capital of the tribe, Hussein, with little loss in February, was constantly impeded by the inefficiency of the troops at its disposal, and it was not until the end of March that, on the arrival of reinforcements under Yussuf Pasha the troops entered Mesoora and inflicted the sheikh's corps in arms a severe defeat. Sureties were given for the sum of 6,200*l*. exacted for arrears of taxes in addition to a further expenses of the expedition. On the return of the troops to Hodeida early in May one of the latter mutiny broke out through, it is said, the dislike of their officers and by the irregularity of their pay. This mutiny, which was quickly quelled by the determined action of their commander, had a certain connexion with the events of April in Constantinople, the deposition of Sultan Abdul Hamid was, on the contrary, generally welcomed in the Yemen for it brought to the troops some hope of receiving regular pay under the new constitutional regime and of being sent home to Asia Minor at the conclusion of their service, and, while it left the Arabs fairly indifferent the weakening of the Hamidian autocratic rule seemed to their chiefs another step on the road to their long-desired autonomy. The Constitutional Government had originally had serious intentions of extending some form of autonomy to the Yemen, but the events of April have made the Arab deputies at Constantinople somewhat suspicious of the new Ottoman constitutionalism which seemed to spell Turkish ascendancy, and the weakness and changes in the central administration rendered the chances of a speedy settlement of the country more and more remote. The Hilmi Cabinet drew up a scheme whereby the Yemen should be divided into two provinces, one of which was to be under the autonomous rule of the powerful chief Imam Yahya, and the other, Sanaa, was to be administered by Turkish officials, the Sheri law to prevail in both and local taxes to be collected and expended by purely local requirements, but the Ottoman Parliament, after two months' consideration, set it aside, fearing that Albania and other outlying districts of the Empire would demand similar privileged treatment.

The check thus put upon his aspirations was not long in driving the ambitious

Imam into open revolt, and he found a formidable ally ready to second his efforts. Already since the month of March news had reached head-quarters of the appearance at Sanaa of a certain El Idress, a man about 30 years of age, sprung from the Yemen but educated in Cairo and Morocco, who claimed to be gifted with supernatural powers, preached the Sheri law and proclaimed himself to be a Mahdi. He protested that he had no hostile intentions towards the Government, but during the spring and summer his influence grew and spread among the Arab tribes, as far as Assyr, and he entered into relations with Yafya and all the chief Sheikhs of the Yemen and Hedjaz. Owing to the paucity of the troops available and the operations in progress against the Zaveneeks, the combined movement of the Mahdi and the Imam had reached formidable proportions before any action could be taken against them, and the rebellion which broke out in September around Hodeidah and Loheiya looked at first so alarming that the foreign consular body thought it advisable to dispatch a British and an Italian war-ship for the protection of foreign residents. Whether the Mahdi originally intended actually to lead a revolt against the Government is not quite clear, fighting began in the first instance between him and a certain Sheikh Beri of Zaidyeh, whom he had degraded from his position in consequence of the complaints brought on all sides against his exactions and injustice. Beri's friends attacked El Idressi, who defeated them, and the Turkish authorities, apparently badly informed on the matter, thought it necessary to espouse Beri's cause. Idrisse thereupon turned against them. Tahsin Pasha succeeded in staving off the danger to the coast towns, and prepared to take strong measures against the Mahdi on whom he laid the blame for all the unrest prevailing in the country. Little progress was made with the operations, however, and in October Said Pasha was sent out by the Home Government with some Rumelian reinforcements to quell the rebellion. Said Pasha, after an interview with Idrisse, adopted a view entirely opposed to that of Tahsin, accepted the Mahdi's protestations of friendship and offers to conduct the troops to Assyr, and listened to his accusations against the vali of maladministration and inefficiency. While the arrival of the reinforcements effectually stopped the forward Arab movement and brought the country to a comparatively peaceful condition by the end of the year, the Government at Constantinople found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to try and come to some decision as to whether they should adopt Said Pasha's policy of conciliating and acting with El Idressi, or Tahsin's recommendation to accept the severest measures against the Mahdi. The latter would probably be more likely to lead to a pacification of the country, and the Mahdi's protestations of friendship sounded very hollow, coupled as they were with a list of complaints and accusations against all the authorities and individuals in the country whose action had stood in the way of his self-aggrandisement.

The outlook in all these districts is not promising, trouble seems to be brewing among the Nejd and Yemen tribes there are current rumours of renewed efforts to attain the desired autonomy and the uncertain and vacillating conduct of the authorities does not conduce to make the country any more settled than it was under former conditions.

Turkey in Africa

During the first two months of the year great distress prevailed, owing to the failure of last years crops, in the African provinces; the distribution of relief cost the Government over £T 12,000. In the spring and early summer some natural apprehension was felt that the stirring events occurring in the capital would have a dangerous effect on a population composed mainly of Arabs who are no fervent admirers of the constitutional regime, and the authorities consequently exercised great vigilance over suspected reactionaries, especially when cargoes of exiles began to arrive from Constantinople, but although a few arrests were made and one officer, who tried to incite the troops to mutiny, was condemned to penal servitude for life, no abnormal disturbances were experienced on these outposts of the Empire. In the interior and on the frontiers of the provinces the usual inter-tribal feuds ran their course, varied by attacks on caravans. An illustration of this state of affairs is afforded by the fact that, when fighting broke out between two sections of the Tebbu Resheda tribe, the authorities were about to seize the opportunity to make an expedition with the purpose of establishing their power over these unruly Arabs, but were dissuaded by the suggestion that it would be better to let them continue their fratricidal strife (twenty-eight men are said to have been killed in one battle), because as long as they were so occupied they would be unable to resume their marauding operations on the road between Fezzan and Bornu.

In September one of these feuds aroused dangerous excitement on the Egyptian frontier, owing to the Hassouna (Ottoman) Benouins having succeeded in raiding 300 camels from the Awlad Ali (Egyptian), killing or wounding five of the latter. The Egyptian authorities succeeded in pacifying the outraged Awlad Ali for the time, as it was agreed that a meeting of delegates from both sides of the border should be held in January to settle this and other disputes. On another frontier of the Turkish provinces, however, a more serious position has been formed. For some time past the French have been conducting operations in the Sahara, culminating last June in the capture of Abeshr, in Wadai, and the occupation of Janet, and have been encouraging Tunisian tribesmen to settle along the Tripolitan side of the undefined frontier where there is a debatable zone claimed by the Warghamma and Nawayl tribes, and many among the latter are proclaiming themselves Tunisians for want of protection by the Ottoman authorities. In consequence of the French encroachments towards Wazzim, to the south of the border, a battalion and seventy cavalry were sent towards Hassato and Nalut in December. The French advance has frightened the Senoussi chiefs of Kufra into accepting the Ottoman protection, which they had rejected with scorn the year before, and a sheikh of the Imharba tribe has been appointed Kaimakam of Kufra.

With regard to the development of Italian interests, the Benghazi branch of the Banca di Roma, which is now officially recognised by the Porte, continues to make purchases of land, as the acquisition of land by foreigners is never favourably regarded by the authorities, who are, moreover, especially suspicious of Italian designs, the difficulties raised by these progressive purchases require the exercise of all the great tact, ability, and experience of the new Italian Consul, who appears to have succeeded in restoring to his colony much of the prestige lost through the tactlessness of his predecessor.

With regard to the slave and arms traffics, there is little to report. At the end of July three young slave girls were shipped to Constantinople, where, however, as a result of the unofficial representations of the Embassy, they were taken in charge by the police authorities and given papers of emancipation. They refused to be repatriated. As to the arms traffic, no answer was received to our note respecting the inclusion of Tripoli within the zone of prohibition, but the Italian embassy received a reply to the effect that the Porte considered that the extension should not be limited to Tripoli, but should cover all the north coast of Africa, and that they reserved their definite decision on the point. It was considered better not to press the matter further, and the question was dropped.

Annual Report upon Sanitary Affairs in the Turkish Empire in the year 1909

The questions dealt with in the following report are grouped under the following headings:

(A.) The epidemiology of the year—
- (a.) Cholera outbreaks.
- (b.) Plague outbreaks.

(B.) The Moslem pilgrimage.
(C.) Changes in the Board of Health.
(D.) The sanitary defence of the Hedjaz Railway.
(E.) Other questions dealt with by the Board of Health—
- (a.) The sanitation of Jeddah.
- (b.) Increase of pay of the employés.
- (c.) Night pratique.
- (d.) Medical assistance on the occasion of the Adana massacres.
- (e.) Suppression of sanitary offices in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.
- (f.) Readmission of Shiah corpses from India to Turkish territory.
- (g.) New drainage system in the Camaran lazaret.
- (h.) Application of the Stamp Law to the sanitary administration.

(F.) The work of the mixed commission for revision of the sanitary tariff.

(A.) *The Epidemiology of the Year*

(a.) *Cholera Outbreaks.*

The cholera epidemic of 1908 in Russia lingered on until the spring of 1909. After a very brief interval of quiescence it became active again in St. Petersburgh at the end of May (o.s.), and during the following months the disease reappeared in almost all parts of European Russia, and in certain places in the Caucasus and Siberia.

From Russia the infection was carried to Germany, Holland and Belgium, in each of which small isolated outbreaks of the disease occurred in the autumn. Isolated cases were also seen in Austria (Galicia).

In December some cases of cholera occurred in the Persian town of Astara.

On the 22nd June the steam-ship "Alavi" arrived at the Camaran lazaret, having had three deaths from cholera during the voyage from Calcutta.

No certain case of cholera occurred on Turkish territory during the year. A death from suspected cholera was however reported late in the autumn from Kopmish, near Trebizond, occurring on a sailing ship from Russia.

(b.) *Plague Outbreaks.*

The plague epidemic in Bagdad, which began in May 1908 continued until February 1909. In all 157 cases, with 85 deaths occurred in those nine months.

The plague outbreak in Jeddah, which began in December 1908, continued until the 21st April, 1909. During that period 178 cases and 160 deaths were registered. Yanbo escaped the infection on this occasion.

On the 12th May the appearance of plague in the Bahrein Islands was reported. The outbreak only lasted a few weeks, during which some thirty deaths in all occurred. In April isolated cases of the disease were landed from ships at Muscat and Bushire, in the Persian Gulf.

A single case of plague was seen in a village near Beirout in July and three others in that town in November. The infection seems to have become endemic here, though only causing a few isolated cases at long intervals.

In November a few cases of plague occurred at Alexandretta for the first time.

In July five cases of plague with three deaths were recorded in Adalia, and in October there were three more. The infection seems to linger in this town for years together, under the same conditions as in Beirout.

(B.) *The Moslem Pilgrimage.*

The returning Hajj of 1908–9 was declared "brut" owing to the above mentioned outbreak of plague in Jeddah. Pilgrims returning to Turkey by sea or land were subjected to varying periods of quarantine with disinfection in the maritime lazarets and in that of Tebuk on the Hedjaz Railway. Fortunately no outbreak of the disease occurred among the returning pilgrims.

The descending Hajj of 1909–10 remained equally free from epidemic disease. The fêtes of Kurban Bairam fell in the third week of December. The returning Hajj was at first declared "clean," but a case of plague having just been reported from Jeddah (early in January 1910), it has now been declared "brut."

The pilgrimage regulations for 1909–10 again appeared as "Dispositions spéciales," instead of as a "Règlement." They contained several innovations. Among these may be mentioned the following: reduction from ten to seven days in the quarantine on Indian pilgrims, if already fourteen days out; examination of pilgrims' foodstuffs made applicable in all lazarets, and the principle of compensation for their destruction admitted; penal quarantines abolished; ordinary ships in the Mediterranean during the Hajj months made subject to restrictive measures. Only ships belonging to regular lines were at first permitted to carry pilgrims, but this was subsequently modified. Clauses relating to the carriage of pilgrims by the Hedjaz Railway appeared for the first time (see below, under letter D). Finally the total taxes to be levied for each of the varying periods of quarantine were definitely fixed.

Late in the year a "Projet de Loi de Pénalités," to be applied to pilgrim ships infringing the regulations, was submitted to the Board by the Turkish Government. Being practically identical with the penalty clauses of the International Sanitary Convention (Paris) of 1903 (with certain omissions), the Board approved of the project, while leaving the question of the method of its application, should it become

law, to an agreement between the Porte and the foreign missions. No mention is made in the Projet of the consular commission provided by articles 173 and 174 of that convention, and it seems certain that Turkey will continue to refuse the adoption of those clauses.

(C.) *Changes in the Board of Health.*

In September Ahmed Midhat Effendi, vice-president of the Board, Dr. Zitterer, the inspector-general, and Dr. Ferid Ibrahim, one of the new Turkish members appointed in the preceding year, were placed on the retired list, by order of the Turkish Government. The two former received a sum of £T 350 as a "gratification," in addition to their pension. The Government at the same time named Dr. Djenab Bey (formerly assistant inspector) to the post of vice-president, Dr Cassim Izzeddin (one of the Turkish members appointed in 1908) to that of inspector-general, and Dr Rifaat Bey (a young Turkish doctor of only a few years' service) to that of assistant-inspector. Dr Akil Bey and Dr. Suad Bey were appointed Turkish members, to fill the vacancies left by the promotion of Dr. Djenab Bey and Dr Cassim Izzeddin.

The nomination of the two inspectors without consulting the Board was followed by representations from the heads of missions to the Sublime Porte, similar to those made on analogous occasions in 1901 and 1908. The Porte however persistently refuses to admit the validity of those representations.

The death of Dr Stékoulis, the Dutch delegate, and the resignation of Dr Mirabel, the French delegate, have created vacancies among the foreign delegates which have not yet been definitely filled. The transfer to Beirout of M. Padel, the German delegate, led to the nomination of Dr Weber, second dragoman of the German Embassy, as his successor.

(D.) *The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway*

During the returning pilgrimage of 1908–9 pilgrims travelling by this line were subjected to the necessary measures in the lazaret of Tebuk, temporarily constructed on the site chosen by the mission of inspection which travelled down the line in 1908. A staff of doctors, disinfectors, clerks, &c., was sent to the lazaret from Constantinople, to supervise and carry out the measures. Disinfection was carried out by means of two large disinfecting stoves, installed in a "portable" pavilion ("pavillon démontable"). A similar pavilion served to lodge the staff. A complete network of water pipes was laid down, bringing water from a well near the station and distributing it to each of the cordons. The cordons were, towards the end of the season, surrounded by effective barriers of wire netting. The measures were incomparably more effective than those of the preceding year at Medaini Salih.

In preparation for the pilgrimage of 1909–10 three additional portable pavilions were sent to Tebuk, one to serve as a hospital, one for the staff, and the third as a depôt for stores.

As already stated, the "Dispositions" for the pilgrimage of 1909–10 contain for the first time a series of clauses concerning the measures to be applied to pilgrims returning by the railway and the co-operation of the railway authorities to secure the hygienic condition of the carriages in which the pilgrims travel. Some of these clauses, however, the Railway authorities have found impossible to comply with.

In all 14,126 pilgrims passed through the Tebuk lazaret in the returning Hajj of 1908–9. It will be recalled that in the preceding year the numbers passing through the improvised lazaret at Medaini Salih were put at 11,190. It is certain, however, that that number was below the truth, owing to the ease with which that lazaret could be avoided.

The accounts of the Tebuk lazaret have now been made up to the 31st December, 1909. The principal figures are as follows:—

(*a.*) The expenditure on constructions, &c., which, under the arrangements in force for other lazarets, would be chargeable to the Mahé, has been 817,376 prs. 66 p.; the receipts from the 25 piastre tax above alluded to were 295,218 piastres, leaving a deficit of 522,158 prs 66 p.

(*b*) The expenditure on what may be called "Quarantine" account was 500,391 prs 43 p., and the receipts 328,346 piastres. If to the latter sum be added the small surplus of 17,820 piastres obtained at Medaini Salih in the preceding season, the receipts become 346,166 piastres, leaving a deficit in this account of 154,228 prs. 43 p.

These figures are carried to a separate provisional account for the time being, as the financial aspect of the sanitary defence of the Hedjaz Railway still remains to be regularised. In January last the Board of Health took a decision (in the absence of Dr. Clemow) to impose a surtax of 25 piastres on the pilgrims using the line. Dr Clemow protested against this decision at a later meeting as being *ultra vires*, since only the mixed commission has the right to create new taxation. The decision was therefore modified, the tax was, however, maintained, but was to be regarded as a "contribution" intended to cover the cost of the temporary lazaret at Tebuk, and the decision was limited to that year's pilgrimage. Dr Clemow made "reserves" in regard to this decision, which might create a dangerous precedent. In the current season of 1909-10 the Board has decided not to levy this tax.

In July the Sublime Porte addressed a verbal note to the foreign missions on this subject. It contained some erroneous statements—among others one to the effect that the Board of Health had decided to advance the sum of £T 150,000 for the construction of the permanent lazaret, and proposed that effect should at once be given to this decision. In reply His Majesty's embassy pointed out the above inaccuracies, urged that the question could only be settled by the mixed commission, and stated that it was unable to approve the levy of a 25 piastres tax for the purpose of covering the cost of construction of the lazaret, such cost being invariably at the charge of the Turkish Government. No further reply has been received.

(E) *Other questions dealt with by the Board of Health.*

Among the very large number of questions dealt with by the Board during the year, the following are of sufficient importance and interest to find mention in an annual report —

(*a*) The sanitation of Jeddah.
(*b*) Increase of pay of the employés.
(*c*) Night pratique.
(*d*) Medical assistance on the occasion of the Adana massacres.
(*e*) Suppression of sanitary offices in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.
(*f*) Readmission of Shiah corpses from India to Turkish territory.
(*g*) New drainage system at Camaran lazaret.
(*h*) Application of the stamp law to the sanitary administration.

a.) *The Sanitation of Jeddah.*

On the 12th January the Board, on the proposal of the Austrian delegate, took a hurried decision to construct a camp outside Jeddah for the lodging of pilgrims, and to levy a tax on the pilgrims to cover the cost of this camp and of the general sanitation of the town of Jeddah. Dr Clemow was absent from that meeting, but at the next he protested against the decision as *ultra vires*. On the 27th March a special meeting was held, at which the main question and the collateral ones relating to it were discussed at great length. Dr Clemow maintained that no decision was possible until a definite notion had been arrived at of what the sanitation of Jeddah really meant. It was decided to refer all the questions to a special committee, appointed for the purpose. Since then, however, that committee has not once been convoked. The matter was raised again in the mixed commission in June, and is referred to again below.

(b.) *Increase of Pay of the Sanitary Employés.*

On the 9th March, after frequent adjournments, the proposal of the Austrian delegate to apply at once the new and greatly increased scale of pay of the sanitary employés drawn up by the mixed commission was voted by majority of the Board and put in force from the 1st (14th) of that month. This was an irregular decision, as the new "cadres" had not been definitely accepted by the Porte or the Powers, and as the British delegate had accepted them *ad referendum*, and under the condition clearly laid down that the sanitary dues should be reduced at the same time. This is only one out of many instances in which the Board of Health shows an increasing tendency to ignore conventions and to act *ultra vires*. Dr Clemow succeeded at the same time in obtaining a modification of the time-table ("horaire") of the central employés (the old one was lamentously inadequate), and also a decision that extra hours of work would not necessarily entitle the employé to extra pay, and

that future requests for money grants ("gratifications") would be refused. The last two decisions have only been partially respected since.

(c.) *Night Pratique.*

In March it was decided that pratique would be granted to ships in Turkish ports up to two hours after sunset, and at any time of the night if a preliminary demand were made and if the local authorities raised no objection. Kavak and the Dardanelles were excepted from this decision, so that the passage of the straits by night is still prohibited.

(d.) *The Adana Massacres.*

In May the Board sent a certain number of medical officers, drugs, dressings, and medical comforts to Adana at the request of the ladies of the Red Crescent Society. The decision was not to serve as a precedent.

(e.) *Suppression of Sanitary Offices in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.*

In consequence of the separation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia from the Turkish Empire, the Board's sanitary offices in those countries were finally suppressed in June, with a resulting economy of a considerable annual sum, as those offices had for years not only served no useful purpose of any kind, but had been run at a heavy loss. About the same time a debt of £T 4,200 on sanitary account was admitted by the Bulgarian Government, and was subsequently paid over to the funds of the sanitary administration.

(f.) *Readmission of Shiah Corpses from India to Turkish Territory.*

The prohibition of the entry to Bassorah, for the Shiah burying grounds, of corpses from India, which had been in force since plague appeared in India, was removed in September. Such corpses are now admitted if certain conditions are fulfilled.

(g.) *New Drainage System at the Camaran Lazaret.*

The system of drainage at the Camaran lazaret, proposed by the inspection commission which visited the island in 1906, was put up experimentally in one cordon in 1907-8, and came into use in the pilgrimage of 1908-9. It gave very satisfactory results, and has now been put in in another cordon.

(h.) *Application of the Stamp Law to the Sanitary Administration.*

The application of the 'Loi sur le Timbre" of the 27th Zilhadjé, 1323, to the papers of the sanitary service was agreed to by the Board, with the unanimous consent of the heads of missions, at the meeting of the 21st December.

(F) *The Work of the Mixed Commission for Revision of the Sanitary Tariff.*

In the winter of 1908-9 the work of this body was in abeyance, owing to the political situation and the transfer of the President Hakki Bey to a more elevated post. On the 26th May, 1909, it met for the eleventh time. In the interval, under considerable pressure, the Turkish Government had named, firstly, Fethy Bey as Hakki Bey's successor, and, secondly, owing to the regretted illness and death of Fethy Bey, Sefer Effendi was appointed to the presidency. A new secretary was also named.

The twelfth and thirteenth meetings were held on the 2nd and 16th June respectively. At these meetings the proposal referred to above, that the sanitation of Jeddah should be undertaken by the Board of Health and a tax levied for the purpose, was discussed. The Austrian delegate stated that he could not consent to the reduction of sanitary dues unless this proposal was agreed to. In a sub-committee he proposed that the next tax for this purpose be fixed at 10 piastres, making, with the existing 10 piastres tax, 20 piastres in all, and that the same sum of 20 piastres should be levied on pilgrims travelling to the Hedjaz by the new railway in place of the 25 piastres tax levied on those returning by the line. Though agreed to in the sub-committee, the proposal was rejected by the commission at the thirteenth plenary

meeting, on the ground that it did not form part of the programme of the mixed commission, and could only do so on the initiative of the Turkish Government. Since then this question has been shelved. Its revival may, however, be very shortly anticipated.

Among other matters dealt with by the commission, the second sub-committee, which had hitherto only revised the figures for the pay of the personnel ("cadres"), was further charged with revising all the remaining items of the budget. The Russian and British delegates were added to the sub-committee for this purpose. This work, which involves the consideration of a vast mass of figures, should have been done by the sub-committee three or four years ago, but has only been seriously taken in hand during the last summer. It is now approaching completion.

Further delay has been caused by the removal once more of the new president and secretary appointed last spring. Pressure is now being brought to bear on the Government to appoint their successors. Until that is done, the commission cannot hold any plenary meetings.

The question of the reduction of sanitary dues has made no further advance during the year owing to the above-named delays. It has also to be pointed out that the financial results of the sanitary administration during the year 1908-9 were not satisfactory. There was a great drop in receipts and increase in expenditure. The net surplus in the "sanitary" service was only about £ T 10,000 (not counting interest on investments), and the "quarantine" service gave a large deficit. The current year 1909-1910 will inevitably show a further increase in expenditure (if only from the application of the new "cadres"), and it remains to be seen whether the receipts will have risen again sufficiently to compensate this. Should they not, the question will have to be seriously considered whether our demand for the reduction of dues should be persisted in.

Customs.

At the beginning of 1909 Mr. R. F. Crawford, His Britannic Majesty's commissioner of customs, was engaged for one year as adviser to the Turkish customs administration and on the 25th January he arrived in Constantinople. In none of the several departments in which constitutional Turkey has enlisted foreign assistance has that assistance proved so conspicuously useful. Mr. Crawford has addressed himself to a herculean task with equal tact, firmness, and industry. His work has earned the unstinted admiration of the Turkish Government, of merchants, and of outside observers, and it was not long before the Government expressed a desire to prolong his engagement. So many abnormal circumstances have affected trade with Turkey since the customs increase of 1907 that it is difficult to compare one year with another accurately, but the increase in duty collected during recent months as compared with the corresponding months in 1908, especially in Constantinople, has been so great as to show that Mr. Crawford's reforms have already had a most beneficial effect on the revenue. This might have been expected to be attended by an outcry on the part of the merchants out of whose pockets the duty in the first instance comes. That there has been no such outcry on any considerable scale must be explained by the facts that the new arrangements benefit the importer considerably by enabling him to clear his goods quickly, and that much of the duty which was lost to the Treasury under the old régime was not saved by merchants, but enriched professional clearers of goods and dishonest employés in the custom-houses.

The principal reform introduced by Mr. Crawford up to the present has been a new system of valuation. The duty was formerly collected on the value of goods as estimated by special officials in the custom-house. The valuation is now based on a declaration made by the importer himself, and supported in case of need by the production of invoices. The regulation protects the authorities against fraud by means of false declarations, and they retain the right to fall back upon the system of direct valuation of the goods in case of dispute. On the other hand the merchant retains the important right of paying duty in kind when a *bonâ fide* declaration is disputed by the custom-house. Various other measures may be enumerated briefly. Provision has been made for the more efficient control of subordinate officials and for the registration and control of the professional clearers mentioned above. The Central Administration has been remodelled on lines which contribute greatly to rapidity in dealing with questions referred to it. A reorganisation of the personnel of the local custom-houses is projected for the near future, and it is also hoped in the coming financial year to minimise the temptation to dishonesty by substantially increasing the pay of the subordinate officials, a reform which has long been urgent

but which it has not yet been possible to effect. Advantage has been taken of the state of siege which has existed in Constantinople since last April to repress the insubordination of the guilds which enjoy a monopoly of lighterage and of porterage in the custom-houses. A new system of inspection has been introduced; inspectors have been sent to report on, and new directors have been appointed to many provincial custom-houses, and a system of control has been established whereby all transactions at local custom-houses are checked at the Central Administration. Instructions in custom house procedure and mercantile forms has been provided for a certain number of employés at the Central Administration, and encouragement is given them to acquire a knowledge of French and English. An important measure of a different kind has been the abolition of the 2 per cent. tax on goods sent from one Ottoman port to another, an obstacle to internal commerce, the yield of which was actually less than the cost of collection.

It must not be supposed that these and similar measures have exhausted the possibilities of reform or have done more than establish the bases of a sound administration, the future of which must depend on the continued good-will of the higher authorities and the creation of a supply of efficient officials to work it. No class of Turkish officials has as yet shown much readiness to accept a reasonable amount of responsibility in matters obviously within their competence but uncovered by the text of regulations, and the result, in the custom-house as elsewhere, is that the Central Administration is deluged with applications for instructions on trivial questions. The Central Administration is at present dominated by Mr. Crawford, and its attitude is consequently fearless and reasonable, but it will be most unfortunate if, having remained long enough to establish stringent measures of control, he should leave before he has been able to create a tradition of common sense and readiness to accept responsibility in dealing with doubtful points. To take another matter in which His Britannic Majesty's Government is much interested, very little has been done in the last year towards improving the custom house accommodation in many ports of the Empire. In Smyrna new buildings were completed and brought into use in 1909. In Constantinople much progress has been made with the new buildings which were begun over a year ago, and a bonded warehouse has been erected by the Quay Company in Stamboul, where merchants are allowed to hold stocks duty free for any period up to two years; but in Salonica, Beirout, Bagdad, Bussorah and elsewhere little has been done during the past year towards improving the existing accommodation. This embassy has not urged the Porte strongly in this connection since the renewal of the constitution, preferring to await the natural course of reform, but there are quarters in which it is suggested that His Majesty's Government might not to agree to the further increase of 4 per cent. in the customs duties now proposed until more complete effect has been actually given to the promises made by the Turkish Government when the last increase was agreed to in 1907.

British Claims and other Cases.

In the annual report for 1908 it was stated that the revolution of that year had brought about a marked decrease in the number of British claims on the Government and other non-political cases with which the embassy has to deal. This improvement has on the whole been maintained during 1909. Several cases dating from the old régime have been disposed of and such new cases as have arisen have for the most part lent themselves to expeditious settlement. It would be rash, however, to be too confident of the permanence of this improvement, for, to say nothing of the uncertainty of the political and financial future, it is still true that little progress towards real efficiency has been made in most departments of State and there are not wanting indications of a tendency to resent diplomatic intervention in cases where it has been, and still is, the only means of securing their satisfactory settlement.

One of the first laws actually passed by Parliament confirmed the Ministerial decision taken in November 1908 with reference to the registration of claims entering into the floating debt, subject to certain modifications, the most important of which extended the floating debt period to the 13th July, 1908. No provision has as yet been made for the payment of claims on the Government belonging to that period, but the question is understood to be now under consideration. Besides various claims for arrears of pay and pensions due to British subjects, the principal British claims included in the floating debt are the Corp claim (£ T. 63,000), the Frenchman claim (£ T. 20,000), and the Long Island claim (placed at £ T. 30,000 by the claimant, but not definitely fixed in amount as between him and the Government). The second

of these is a claim on the now defunct Mahsoussa steam-ship administration, and may perhaps be recovered independently of the floating debt in connection with the taking over of that administration by the newly-formed Anglo-Turkish company. The floating debt now also includes the remainder of certain old claims on the Admiralty, which have been mentioned in previous reports, namely, the Hotchkiss Ordnance Company's claim for £ T 512, and the balance of about 60*l* still due to Messrs. Archdale and Co.

The principal outstanding claims other than those just enumerated are the following :—

1. The Benghazy fire claims for goods looted at that place in 1906: No progress has been made towards inducing the Government to admit responsibility. The British claims amount to about £ T 5,000.

2. The Adana claims. The position as regards foreign property destroyed at Adana during the disturbances of April 1909 is described in the portion of this report dealing with that place. British subjects are interested to the extent of many thousands of pounds, and have sought the assistance of the embassy in recovering their losses. As the British claims have not so far been laid before the Porte they cannot at present be regarded as more than potential claims on the Turkish Government, but it is necessary to mention them in this place for the sake of completeness.

3. Piracy claims at Jeddah. Under the old régime it was the practice for the local authorities to settle frequent foreign claims arising out of piracy and brigandage in the Red Sea and Arabia. Early in 1909 it became necessary for the embassy to approach the Porte with reference to a number of outstanding claims of this kind amounting altogether to about 1,500*l*. As a result of instructions sent to Jeddah, in consequence, there is now some prospect of these claims being settled locally.

4. A claim for the value of certain hides confiscated in the Red Sea. These hides, which are alleged to have belonged to British subjects at Aden and to have been worth about 1,300*l*, were seized on board a smuggling dhow not far from Gizan and were confiscated by the Customs authorities at Hodeidah. The embassy contends that the confiscation of the hides was in any case an extreme measure, and, if it took place on the high seas, an illegal one. The case is, however, in many respects a weak one and may eventually have to be dropped, though at present there is some hope of settling it by a compromise.

The principal claims which have been settled are the following :—

1. Mr. Langridge's claim on the Oman administration at Bagdad. This claim, which was mentioned in the report for 1908 as having been settled in principle, was actually paid about the beginning of the year.

2. The "Jehana" and "Kilburn" claims arising out of two piracies in the Red Sea, of which the British dhow "Jehana" and the steam-ship "Kilburn" were victims in 1907. A mixed commission sitting locally fixed the liability of the Government at £ T 1,265 (about a sixth of which belonged to Italian subjects) and £ T 3,500 respectively. It was supposed that these amounts would have to be included in the floating debt, but they were ultimately paid out of contingency funds, and the embassy received the above-mentioned amounts in April 1909 and September 1909 respectively.

3. Messrs. Westcott and Laurance's claim for freight on iron girders. This was a small claim which gave a vast amount of trouble owing to the conduct of a British subject named Garvie, who contracted some years ago to supply the girders in question to the Admiralty. Garvie obtained the assistance of the embassy in recovering the amount due under his contract, but refused to hand over the bill of lading in return for the final instalment, and was in fact unable to do so as he had not himself paid the Belgian firm from whom he procured the goods. The goods being in the custom-house the Admiralty induced that department to hand them over without production of the papers, whereupon Messrs. Westcott and Laurance claimed the freight from the custom-house in virtue of their carriers' lien on the goods. After prolonged negotiations a compromise was arrived at whereby the Admiralty paid over to the custom house the final instalment of about £ T 60, which had been paid to the embassy for Garvie, but which the embassy ultimately returned to the Admiralty, and the custom-house in turn paid it to Messrs. Westcott and Laurance's agents, who accepted it in full settlement of their claim in November 1909.

4. Sundry small claims for arrears of pay due to British subjects and not included in the floating debt. None of the non-political cases other than claims for money which at present occupy the active attention of the embassy are of the first importance. The following may be briefly mentioned :—

1. The Sevastos case. This arises out of differences between a naturalised British subject, Mr. Sevastos, and his namesakes and relatives of Hellenic nationality as to the ownership of certain property at Aivali. The case is an old and complicated one. At present it turns principally on Mr. Sevastos's claim to dispose of the property for which he holds title-deeds obtained in consequence of a family settlement come to in 1886. Certain quasi-legal obstacles to his free disposal of the property have been removed with the assistance of the embassy, but administrative difficulties still exist, and the embassy is using its good offices towards the removal of these also.

2. Mrs. Finn's claim to the Sidare and Kaké properties. This is an outcrop of the well-known Finn case. Mrs. Finn's rights to another property having been established in 1907 after prolonged litigation, she has since sought to have her rights over these two properties recognised by analogy by the Government to which they reverted some five years ago, having passed from the hands of the original misappropriators into those of a Turkish subject who died intestate. The Porte has just given a decision adverse to Mrs. Finn, and, though final effect has not been given to it there is now little hope of securing a favourable result. This though unfortunate, was to be expected, as the present legal position of Mrs. Finn is very weak, however clear it may be that the properties were originally misappropriated.

3. Claims against Ahmed Ratib Pasha. The late vali of the Hedjaz was in the habit of making large purchases of jewelry and other costly objects in Europe, and when the constitution brought about his fall he was indebted in a large amount to certain London firms, notably Messrs. Dobson, of Piccadilly, to whom he owed over 30,000*l*. The recovery of this debt is in the main a matter for legal proceedings, which are far advanced, but the embassy has had to intervene in consequence of the refusal of the executive authorities of Jeddah to hand over to the courts certain valuable property of the Pasha's which was seized after his fall and upon which the plaintiffs have laid an attachment.

Various cases of a normal kind arise in connection with British missionary and kindred establishments in the Empire. There are some 200 such institutions, mainly in Syria and Palestine, and certain missionary bodies own considerable properties. There is at present a tendency to curtail the liberal exemptions from taxation which these properties have enjoyed and the time will probably come when the question of such exemptions will have to be dealt with comprehensively. Another large class of cases consists of those in which all the foreign missions are interested and which give rise to identic representations to the Porte. The most active case of this kind now pending is the question of the removal of restrictions on commercial telegrams in code. Such telegrams, though to a large extent tolerated in practice, are prohibited in principle, and are consequently liable to stoppage. The Porte some months ago consented to authorise ten selected codes, but this solution is felt to be impracticable, and representations are being made in favour of the unrestricted use of code telegrams.

The principal cases which have been settled are these :—

1. Ak Sekeh mine. In 1907 Mr. Percival Hadkinson, a British subject, asked the assistance of the embassy in asserting his right to the concession of a manganese mine near Magi, in the vilayet of Smyrna, which concession had just been granted to a daughter of the late Sultan without reference to his prior claim. Mr. Hadkinson based his claim on a *permis de recherches* issued to a Turkish subject over twenty years ago and to a series of transfers effected in the interval. His legal position was extremely weak, but the embassy considered that he had been allowed to acquire a considerable interest in the mine during the tenure of the Ministry of Mines by Selim Pasha Nelhamé and had been encouraged to spend money on it. He was therefore given a moderate measure of support, but at the same time the embassy urged on him the advisability of a compromise, and in the course of 1909 the question was settled by Mr. Hadkinson's buying out the rival concessionnary's interest for a moderate sum.

2. Fao telegraph buildings. Some five years ago the state of the accommodation for the British telegraph employés at Fao had become so bad that diplomatic repre-

sentations on the subject were made at the instance of the Indo-European Telegraph Department. After some time the Turkish Government agreed to reconstruct the buildings at its own expense, and a grant of some 3,000*l* was made for the purpose. Innumerable delays arose, however, in connection with the plans, and it was not till early in 1909 that the work was actually taken in hand. Further delay has recently arisen, but the work has now been resumed and it may be hoped that it will be completed in the course of the next few months.

3. Ismail and Hassan Nazmi v. Zeyneb Hanum. This case arose out of the administration of the estate of a British Indian subject, Hassan Hind, who died many years ago. In circumstances which engaged much attention at the Foreign Office at the time but to which it is now unnecessary to refer, Zeyneb Hanum a widow of the deceased, was appointed administratrix by the Supreme Consular Court. Her administration subsequently gave rise to an action instituted against her in that court by her two sons, and judgment was given in their favour. It was decided to execute this judgment on certain real property of the defendant's, which necessitated recourse to the Turkish executive authorities. In the course of the proceedings, however, Zeyneb Hanum sought to escape the jurisdiction of the Consular Court by embracing Turkish nationality, and the intervention of the embassy became necessary. In the event the Porte admitted the important principle that, whether Zeyneb Hanum had really changed her nationality or not, she was still amenable to the jurisdiction of the Consular Court in a case which had been instituted before the alleged naturalisation, and in which she was sued as administratrix of a British estate.

4. The Palzan and Alamango cases. These were two cases in which British subjects had been committed for trial for arson without the acquiescence of the dragoman who attended the "Chambre des Mises en Accusation." The embassy was willing that they should be tried but refused to allow them to be arrested beforehand, as the Turkish procedure in such cases required. The result was a deadlock which lasted several years, but the cases were finally disposed of in 1909, being covered by the Amnesty Law passed in the course of the year.

Reorganisation of Public Departments.

One of the earliest questions which attracted attention after the restoration of the constitution in 1908 was the internal condition of the public offices, especially in Constantinople, where almost all departments had long been crowded with superfluous and for the most part useless officials. Certain already very bodies such as the Council of State, the Custom-house Council, and the Council of the Prefecture of the City had grown to monstrous dimensions owing to the convenient opportunities they afforded for providing comfortable sinecures for persons whom the palace desired to reward or conciliate. Almost every clerical department in every office was filled with unnecessary officials of a lesser order. It was generally recognised that the interests both of efficiency and economy required extensive reductions of staff. The question of how to do this became, however, a thorny one as soon as it was realised that the process of reorganisation must eliminate not only notorious spies and supporters of the old régime, but many whose only offence was their inutility. An early attempt to reorganise the Ministry of Finance, which contained upwards of a thousand officials, proved abortive owing to the emotion it excited, and the present Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, made a similarly unsuccessful attempt at the Ministry of Public Instruction during his short tenure of that office in 1908. It was only after the events of April 1909, when the continuance of martial law provided the means of repressing all public manifestations of discontent, that the Government felt strong enough to deal with the question effectually. A law was passed which entrusted the reconstruction of the departments in Constantinople and the judiciary throughout the Empire to special commissions consisting of a senator, a deputy, and three high officials of the department concerned. These commissions were to fill the cadres of the departments and courts as reorganised, and to divide the superfluous officials into three classes, those suitable for re-employment those of vicious antecedents, and those who might be innocuous but unsuitable for re-employment. The re-employable class were given the option of awaiting re-employment and receiving in the interval an allowance which in the case of all but the lowest salaries was to be considerably less than those which they would be receiving if employed, or of retiring from the service altogether with a not very considerable indemnity proportional to length of service. Persons of the second class were to be dismissed without allowance or indemnity.

Persons of the third class were to be retired with a small indemnity if of less than twenty-five years service, and to be pensioned if of longer service than twenty-five years. In the provinces the reorganisation of the subordinate official staffs was to be effected by commissions consisting of the highest provincial officials in each vilayet.

The policy of a scheme so drastic was from the beginning doubtful. The exigencies of the budget had already necessitated considerable reductions of salary, and the patriotic fervour of many a civil servant had cooled when he found that the constitution meant more work on a salary the regular payment of which seemed little compensation for its having been reduced. The new law threw large numbers out of employment altogether, and, if the hardship was not so great in the case of men a large proportion of whom had not relied exclusively on their salaries, it was nevertheless hardly wise suddenly to create a discontented, and idle class of men fitted for little except talking and writing. The manner in which the semi-parliamentary commissions did their work gave further ground for dissatisfaction.

The restraints of martial law prevented this discontent from finding public and combined expression, but the reorganisation law itself provided that dissatisfied persons retired with or without compensation might have recourse to the Chamber of Deputies, and, when Parliament reassembled in November 1909, it found a reorganisation, or "tenkihat," question of some dimensions awaiting its attention. The chief theoretic defect of the law now proved to have a very practical bearing. The law in creating the semi-Parliamentary commissions had not merely tolerated but sanctioned the direct intervention of Parliament in the work of the executive, and when the question came up the Cabinet could not be fixed with a responsibility which Parliament had itself desired to share. The whole question was referred to a committee, and it is still unsettled. The new Grand Vizier has in his recent statement of policy, promised to introduce further legislation to deal with it.

Meanwhile, the various attempts at reorganisation have produced perceptible changes in many of the departments, and it may be said of them in general that while they suffer almost as much as ever from the lack of really capable men, especially among the higher permanent officials, there has been a distinct improvement in regard to devotion to duty, expeditiousness in dealing with current business, and, perhaps also integrity. At the Ministry of Finance, which is dominated by the personality of Javid Bey, an entirely new organisation has been created and got into working order with little appearance of friction. The same is true of the custom house under the auspices of Mr. Crawford the British Adviser. The Council of State which is one of the most important departments owing to the multiplicity of the questions referred to it and the weight attaching to its decisions, has been reconstructed with a much reduced membership, and no longer broods over its business for years, but its assembled intelligence is still far from worthy of the highest advisory body in the Empire. Of the judicial reform it is rather too soon to speak. The present Minister is a young and energetic man of considerable intelligence, flexibility and firmness of character. He is fortunate in having secured the co-operation of a foreign adviser in the person of Count Ostrorog a French man of Polish extraction, who combines a long local experience with a wide knowledge of both Western and Eastern jurisprudence. Both incline to certain changes in the existing judicial system, and a preliminary step in this direction has been taken by laying before Parliament a Bill for the establishment of a system of travelling "juges de paix," so that simple legal remedies may be at the disposal of persons in the country districts without their being compelled to lose time and money at the administration centres. Meanwhile a large number of new appointments have been made to the existing courts. There is, however, no department in which the dearth of trained and efficient men is more greatly felt. Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than the intellectual poverty of the new Court of Cassation, which, as being the highest Court of Appeal in the Empire, the interpreter of doubtful points of law, the creator of precedents, and the standardiser of judicial practice, calls for members of the highest capacity. Nevertheless an attempt has been made to make the most of the material at present available, and it is a significant fact that a certain amount of new blood has been introduced from the legal world outside the Ministry of Justice, notably in the case of two important courts in Constantinople, the mixed commercial and the maritime, in which two Armenian lawyers of considerable local reputation have been appointed members.

The provincial reorganisation has been partly effected but the conditions differ widely from those of Constantinople, and it has attracted little general attention up to the present time.

Legislative Work of Parliament

The middle decades of the last century were a period of considerable legislative activity in Turkey, and most of the statute law, based on European models, which has supplemented, and to some extent, superseded the Moslem religious law, dates from those years. This period came to an end very early in the reign of the late Sultan, and from about 1880 to the end of his reign few additions were made to the laws of the Empire except regulations dealing with special subjects. When the constitution was restored, it was generally felt that one of the principal tasks of the new Parliament should be to revise a large portion of the existing legislation on comprehensive lines. The inadequacy of certain codes (*e.g.*, the commercial, the penal and that of criminal procedure) had become so apparent even under the old régime, that towards the end of it special commissioners had been appointed to revise them. The codification of the Moslem civil law, which was begun and partly executed a generation ago, had never been completed. The law relating to land was to some extent ill-defined, and tenures were in a state of the greatest confusion. Reform was felt to be necessary in regard to taxation, public instruction, agriculture, mines and numerous other subjects. The various departments, fired with a legitimate enthusiasm, proceeded to the task of elaborating new laws which they hoped to see sanctioned by the will of the people. All this activity has produced very little so far as the way of actual legislation, and none of the larger projects conceived at the time of the revolution have been definitely realised. In some cases the drafts were completed and forwarded to the Porte, and of these some were duly transmitted to Parliament after examination by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, while some have not yet emerged from this stage. In many other cases it has not yet been found possible to prepare the necessary drafts. The following is a summary account of the actual output of Parliament itself during the session which ended in August 1909.

From fifty to sixty measures, great and small, only passed into law. About one half of them were of a financial nature. Of these, several were merely provisional measures necessitated by the fact that the budget for the financial year beginning the 14th March, 1909, was not voted until the end of the session. Some sanctioned grants for relief in the provinces, others smaller grants for recurring expenditure such as new salaries and pensions. Some related to the winding up of the financial affairs of the old régime and the late Sultan's civil list. One legalised a previous Ministerial decision relative to the registration of the floating debt of the Empire, dating from before the constitution, the actual settlement of which was reserved for later consideration. The two principal measures of this kind were the laws relating to the extraordinary and ordinary budgets for the current financial year. The former of these sanctioned the devotion of certain abnormal revenues (principally the Bosnian indemnity and the Yildiz treasure) to extraordinary expenditure, mainly of a military character. The finance law covering the ordinary budget is a long string of miscellaneous provisions. The most interesting of these from a foreign point of view is that authorising the Minister of finance to raise a loan of unspecified amount to meet the deficit in the budget and certain other specified charges. It was under this authority that the 1909 loan of £T 7,000,000 was contracted.

A small number of the non-financial laws relate to the army. These are of little general interest, except that which provides for the conscription of non-Moslems. Three others give the sanction of Parliament to diplomatic agreements, namely, those relating to the cession of Bosnia, the independence of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Railway settlement. Two deal with the abnormal commercial situation created in the Adana district by the disturbances of April. Two others sanction preliminary steps towards the construction of railways from Hodeidah to Sana and in the north-east of Asia Minor by foreign capitalists. One deals with the reorganisation of the public departments, a subject which is dealt with elsewhere in this Report. One provides for the abnormal situation created immediately after the constitution by the release of a large number of prisoners other than the political prisoners, who were regularly amnestied at the time. The effect of this last named enactment has been to amnesty all persons accused or convicted of ordinary offences committed before the 24th July, 1908, with the exception of those actually in custody for the most serious kinds of offence at the time of the promulgation of the law, a class whose sentences are not annulled, but commuted to lighter ones.

There remain a small number of laws of a more general and permanent character. The following may be specially mentioned.

1. Revision of the Constitution. Immediately after its renewal it was widely felt that the constitution of 1876 needed revision, and those modifications which were considered most urgent were duly passed into law at the end of the first session. The general effect of these modifications is to define more precisely and in some measure limit the prerogatives of the Crown, more especially in relation to Parliament, and to emphasise the supreme control of Parliament in all matters. They, moreover, extend to the senators and deputies the right of initiating legislation, suppress the Crown's right of banishing obnoxious persons by administrative order, prohibit any form of preliminary censorship of printed matter, assert the sacredness of correspondence by post, and lay down the general right of association subject to moral, constitutional, and other reasonable restraints.

2. Laws on the Press and Printing Establishments. The law on the press reflects the chastened mood of Parliament after the events of April, which had been preceded by an orgy of newspaper controversy. While allowing any respectable person to start a periodical publication subject to filing an application which must be granted provided that an Ottoman subject was "responsible director," and making no provision for anything in the nature of preliminary censorship, the law provides extremely severe penalties for the various offences which it enumerates, more especially those in the nature of incitements to crime, attacks on religious communities, and libels on public or private persons.

The law on printing establishments also requires owners of such establishments to apply for official permits. Otherwise its effect is of little interest except for an article which requires foreign printers to waive all extra-territorial privileges in regard to matters within the scope of the law, and to prevent undertakings of this sense legalised by their diplomatic or consular authorities.

3. Law on Public Meetings. This law was passed in a similar circumstances to that on the press. It recognises the general right of public meeting, but imposes certain conditions, the most important of which is that notice of the intention to hold a meeting must be given to the authorities not less than forty-eight hours beforehand.

4. Law on Associations. This law recognises in principle the right of association for legitimate purposes, provided only that, as in most associations of a political character, notice of the formation of associations must be given to the authorities. The most interesting article is that which prohibits political associations of a racial basis, a prohibition, the enforcement of which in Albania has raised a difficult question. The law has also a judicial interest, inasmuch as it recognises associations as "moral persons," which can sue or be sued in the courts and can hold real property within certain limits.

5. Law on Vagabonds and Suspects. This law provides for the arrest and summary trial of able-bodied vagrants and ex-convicts guilty of suspicious conduct, whom it makes liable to fairly severe penalties on these charges only. It provides further penalties for persons of this class who are found in possession of burglars' tools, or who are guilty of assault or threatening. The latter penalties include flagellation, a provision which has shocked a certain body of foreign opinion. They also include expulsion from the Empire in the case of foreigners convicted under the law.

6. Law on Strikes. This law deals only with establishments holding concessions for purposes of direct public utility such as tramway lighting &c. It prohibits the formation of trades unions among the employés of such establishments, or of combinations among employers. It provides compulsorily that, in case of dispute between employers and employés, the dispute shall in the first instance be discussed by representatives of both sides under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works. It provides further for the enforcement on the employer of any agreement come to by such representatives. In the event of failure to come to an agreement it leaves the employés free to leave off work, but prohibits any action on their part prejudicial to freedom of employment.

7. Law on the Collection of Taxes. This law is designed to remove the abuses which have long existed in connection with the collection of the various taxes on real property, whereby on the one hand they have constantly been allowed to fall into arrear, while on the other, improper means have been employed to secure payment when they have been actually collected. The law provides a machinery for the punctual collection of such taxes, and legalises a summary procedure analogous to that in use for the execution of judgments, in cases where the debt to the State is not voluntarily discharged. It expressly prohibits, however, the direct intervention of the public force in the collection of taxes.

The new legislation has revived in a form which may at any moment become acute a recurring controversy between the foreign missions and the Porte as to the applicability of new laws to foreign subjects. It is obviously difficult to make new laws of a general nature without coming into collision with the extensive extra-territorial privileges enjoyed by foreigners. Some missions consider the scope of these privileges so great, that they maintain that no new Turkish law can be applied to their nationals without the formal consent of their own Governments. His Britannic Majesty's Government has always leant to the more moderate principle that new laws require its consent before they can be applied to British subjects only when they imply a derogation from existing treaty rights. Unfortunately whatever the principle, reasonable though it is, goes only a little way to overcoming the difficulty, for many of the rights in question are so disputed and so debatable, and derive so much of their validity from custom and interpretation that there is a wide debatable country between what the natural jealousy of the Porte concedes and what the foreign missions, hardly less jealous of their privileges than their nationals claim. The difficulty is still further enhanced under a constitutional system by the facts that the new laws come in for consideration as between the Porte and the missions only after they have been enacted by the representatives of the people, and that, while the Council of State and the Council of Ministers have to revise all Government measures before they go before Parliament, they show little tendency to revise them in a spirit tending to obviate conflict with Foreign Powers. A somewhat sharp, though a laconic controversy, has already arisen over the question of the applicability of the laws on vagabonds and on printing establishments to foreign subjects, and in the case of another law not mentioned above, namely, that which *inter alia* places certain restrictions on the importation of foreign alcohol, the opposition of the Austrian Embassy was so strenuous that the executive has had to take the responsibility of postponing the application of the law. Most of the missions are disposed to handle the general question of the applicability of new laws to their nationals in as conciliatory a spirit as possible, but it is difficult to see how numerous conflicts can be avoided, and, pending the final disappearance of the capitulations for which Young Turkey so ardently hopes, it is to be feared that the driving agency of that ancient system may be accompanied by much unseemly wrangling.

The Turkish Press in 1909.

During the early part of 1909 the Turkish press enjoyed to the full the delights of its new-born freedom. It was no respecter of persons, it criticised where it chose, and slandered whom it wished, and on occasion even it libelled the French Ambassador.

It was divided mainly into two camps, the one supporting the committee, the others the Ahrars or Liberals. The two sections abused each other to an immoderate degree, and their bitter polemics naturally tended to widen the gulf between the two parties and caused many even personal hatreds. This campaign of abuse culminated in the murder of Hassan Fehmi, editor of the 'Serbest,' a bitter opponent of the committee, and it was to one of the committee's adherents that the murder was generally attributed.

How far the press was responsible for the events of April it is difficult to say, but it is certain that its tone had excited the minds of the people, and awoken in them the distrust of the new order of things which led to the mutiny. In especial the inflammatory articles of the semi-religious "Volkan" must have had great influence on the soldiery, among whom it was distributed gratis.

One of the first acts of the mutineers was to wreck the offices of the committee organs, the "Shura-i-Ummet" and the "Tanin." The editor of the latter, Hussein Jahid, fled to the refuge of the Russian Embassy and escaped thence abroad. When, however, the Salonican army came in, the Liberal journalists felt rather insecure, and many of them fled the country, and some deemed it wiser not to return, not because they felt themselves really guilty of being reactionaries, as their opponents alleged, but because they had made so many bitter enemies who being now all-powerful might wish to avenge themselves.

The Government, realising the harm caused by too great freedom of the press, decided to curtail it, and passed a stringent press law, which, administered by the courts-martial, became a powerful instrument to suppress inconvenient criticism or too great opposition to the Government. The press became cautious and colourless. The "Tanin," it is true, was irrepressible owing to the great influence of Hussein Jahid,

and it used its power to overthrow first Nouradounghian and then Ferid Pasha. The "Yeni Gazeta" was suppressed for a week for having criticised the courts-martial and kept very quiet afterwards until the Lynch question came under public discussion, when it assumed a violent attitude, this was winked at by the committee, who realised that the campaign was not so much against Lynch as against Hilmi who was none too well beloved by them.

In dealing with foreign affairs the press has generally shown a desire to be impartial. Occasional articles have been written to advocate siding with the Triple Entente rather than with the Triple Alliance, but on the whole the opinion has been that Turkey must be the friend of all and the ally of none. About Crete it became excited and made many patriotic declarations over the rights of Turkey, whilst assuming a somewhat bellicose attitude towards Greece. Towards Bulgaria it has been on the whole conciliatory, though occasional articles have given offence to the Bulgarians. It devotes a fair amount of attention to events in Europe and quotes largely from the European press. The papers most generally quoted from are the "Times" the "Temps," the "Osmanische Lloyd" and the "Neue Freie Presse." The influence of the latter is probably considerable because it is the first important European paper to arrive here, and consequently its remarks on any important event in Turkey are nearly always reproduced.

With the exception of the "Tanin," the press is corrupt, and most of the papers have applied to various financial institutions for pecuniary subventions, the most notable example was that of the "Yeni Gazeta" which approached the Lynch Company on the subject, and whose subsequent campaign against them was partly due to their refusal.

Of individual papers, the "Tanin" is certainly the most prominent. This is due to the personality of its editor, Hussein Jahid, one of the most influential members of the committee of which the "Tanin" is the chief organ. Hussein Jahid shows little respect for anyone or anything and amongst the victims of his vehement attacks are Kiamil Pasha, Nouradounghian Effendi, and Ferid Pasha, he went perilously near attacking the Sultan himself by writing an article on the absurdity of kissing the scarf which is worn by all high officials at the ceremony of Bairam, at Bairam. He also attacked the Senate. The "Tanin" was succeeded by the court-martial but promptly appeared the next day as the "Yeni Tanin" ("New Tanin").

The "Ikdam" during the early part of the year was important as being the organ of Kiamil Pasha and the Ahrars, it was, consequently, very pro-British. Its editor Ali Kemal, was a clever writer with a peculiar style, with which he tried to replace the long cumbersome sentences in which Turkish is generally written. On the approach of the Salonican army Ali Kemal and the proprietor of the "Ikdam," Ahmed Djevdet fled the country. Ali Kemal thought it prudent not to come back and has since started a paper in Paris entitled the "Yeni Yol", Ahmed Djevdet came back, but has since ratified his paper in very contrite lines.

The "Shura-i-Ummet" under the editorship of the prominent Young Turk Dr Behaeddin Chakir was until the mutiny the official organ of the committee. After the wreck of its offices it appeared only in weekly form.

The "Tasvir-i-Efkiar" is a more or less independent paper, rather in favour of the committee. At first it was anti-foreign in character, and it has always made a point of keeping the Cretan question to the fore. It showed, however, curious inconsistency in warmly supporting Izzet.

The "Yeni Gazeta" was a supporter of Kiamil Pasha and the Ahrars. It was always fairly moderate in tone, and since April has been very quiet except in the case of the Lynch affair as mentioned above.

The "Serbest" was a violent opponent of the committee and its outrages against that body produced much ill-feeling, which ended in the murder of Hassan Fehmi, though it has never been satisfactorily decided whether that was due to political motives or merely personal revenge. After the mutiny it was suppressed, but was published for some time in Paris by one Mevlan Zade, and copies were surreptitiously introduced into Turkey, despite the heavy penalties decreed for anyone reading or selling it.

The "Kalem" is, perhaps, worth mentioning on account of the popularity of its caricatures, which are on the lines of "Punch". The late Sultan was a favourite theme, and most of the prominent men of the country have appeared in black-and-white on its pages.

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TURKEY.

Annual Report, 1910.

[8167]

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 103.)

Sir, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1911.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual report on Turkey for the year 1910.

I am much indebted to several members of my staff for their assistance in compiling this necessarily voluminous report, and also to Commander Barker, of His Majesty's ship "Imogene," who has kindly furnished the notes on the Turkish navy, the naval attaché of the embassy not having visited Constantinople during the past year.

I have, &c.

GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure.

Annual Report on Turkey for the year 1910.

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Turkey in 1910.

THE close of the year 1909 left Turkey in a somewhat less satisfactory position than had been hoped for by her friends. None had realised the vastness and complexity of the problems to be dealt with, and those who looked for immediate improvement under the new régime could not disguise their disappointment. The problem of how to deal with the vast body of useless officers and employés had only partially been solved. The country was not rich enough to provide them with pensions, and they were for the greater part quite unfitted for any private business had that been forthcoming. These, then, formed a large body of disappointed persons, ready to criticise every action of the Government. They expected too much. Constitutional Government has brought about many changes, and has swept away some abuses which pressed heavily, but the masses of the people have forgotten that they ever suffered from restriction of travel, &c., and are disappointed because their extravagant expectations have not been fulfilled.

Parliamentary Government has obtained in name, but alongside has existed martial law, which produces the unpleasant feeling that persons who are politically objectionable to the party now in power may be thrown into prison without very summary judicial proceedings. It is curious that none outside the members of the Government and the committee have a good word to say for the much vaunted regime of liberty. "Abdul and the tyranny of the committee" were what the Government as-it-were had difficult to deal with as was the tyrannical rule of Abdul Hamid. Prominent among the malcontents are the Arab class who honestly believe that the present advanced Turkish régime means the destruction of the Mohammedan religion.

Further, the hopes held out of a large financial future under constitutional Government have not been realised owing to the large demands made by the army, which under Abdul Hamid had been allowed to drift into a state of complete inefficiency. Moreover the non-Moslems of the Empire have gradually begun to realise that the assurances of equal treatment to all the subjects of the Sultan which had been so much spoken of at the beginning of the new régime were not being carried out. All these elements of dissatisfaction were only kept under by the maintenance of martial law, which in itself was not unnaturally open to criticism on the part of those who looked for real constitutional Government.

The early part of the year found the balance of influence fairly evenly divided between the Moderates and the more violent sections of the Committee of Union and Progress, who were strongly represented in the Government by at least four members of the Cabinet, who frankly declared themselves as members of that committee.

As the year advanced, the more violent element gained influence and power, and the section of the committee which sat in Salonika being in many respects obviously, though not admittedly Republican, it was clear that the Sovereign, in spite of the efforts of the more religious sections of public opinion, was being treated with less and less respect and consideration. There were likewise indications that Young Turkey desired to show her independence in a marked manner which could hardly fail to affect foreign Powers.

During the early months of the year there had been felt a distinct alarm on the part of the Government owing to the progress made in the building of the Greek man-of-war, the "Averoff," and a wave of enthusiasm on behalf of a strong navy to cope with this apparently swept the country. There was much talk of building super-Dreadnoughts and of voluntary subscriptions, but the year eventually closed with the modest result of the purchase of two antiquated German vessels and four destroyers.

In the early part of the year the feeling of disappointment was very general, and the public were inclined to lay all the blame on Parliament. So strong was this that when the Palace of Tchemgan was accidentally burnt there was a widespread

conviction amongst devout Moslems that this was a punishment ordained by God for troublesome deputies. Even the Government were inclined to throw the blame on Parliament for the slowness with which legislation was handled, and, consequently, for the absence of progress in the country.

The spring was enlivened by the visits to Constantinople of the Sovereigns of Bulgaria and Servia. It was not expected that these would produce any tangible result. The latter was the more popular of the two, and the Turks would have preferred to see the visit of the former postponed; but, on the whole, the visit of the King of Bulgaria somewhat assisted in improving for a time the relations between the two countries.

It was now becoming more and more evident that the Committee of Union and Progress was succeeding in drawing into its meshes supporters by means of a spurious freemasonry. The influential new deputy for Salonica, Carasso, was the founder of a lodge in connection with Italian freemasonry. He induced officers and civilians to adopt freemasonry with a view to exercising Jewish influence over the new dispensation in Turkey, and to many it appears as if the new movement were rather a Jewish than a Turkish revolution. Djavid Bey, another deputy for Salonica and a clever and gifted crypto-Jew and freemason, was made Minister of Finance, while Talaat Bey, also a freemason, became Minister of the Interior. Hakki Pasha the Grand Vizier, was also approached, and many others of the court martial were freemasons.

Within a year twelve new lodges were started in Constantinople and many in all the towns of Macedonia. Officials holding important and minor posts were given to understand that their position, advancement, and consequently their livelihood, depended upon their being "brethren." Some were induced to join by being told that Egypt, Crete, and other questions affecting the economic greatness of the country would be settled in favour of Turkey. They elected to follow the ancient Scottish rite.

All these lodges were mainly directed or inspired by Jews—the Greek, Armenian, and other native Christian elements being almost entirely unrepresented.

Talaat Bey, as Minister of the Interior, was able to obtain great influence for freemasonry by the appointment to provincial posts of governors, sub-governors, &c., of men who were masons, the intention being that should a majority of the present Chamber, by accident or despite the terrors of the state of siege, carry opposition to the position occupied by the Ministry of Talaat and Djavid, the latter would reply by a coup d'état, dissolve the Chamber, and have fresh elections manipulated by the committee and freemasonry lodges in the provinces.

From the foregoing inspection of the Young Turkey movement in its present stage it would appear to be principally Jewish and "Turkish," as opposed to other Ottoman elements, i.e., Arabs, Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians &c. The Turk is mainly a soldier, and under constitutional forms he strives to preserve his race preeminence through the army. The economic organism of the Turk is of the feeblest kind, and, unsupported could not stand alone for a single week. It was hoped in the beginning that the Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, and the Ottoman Jews would serve as economic props, but the Young Turk seems to have sided himself solely with the Jew-Ottoman and foreign—and have outraged the other races.

Nazim Bey, a very influential member of the Salonica committee, and said to be of Jewish extraction, has visited the Paris branch of the Judaeo Colonisation Association, and has advocated the importing of 200,000 Roumanian Jews into Macedonia and some millions of Russian Jews into Mesopotamia. Israel Zangwill has favoured a similar policy.

Mesopotamia and Palestine are, however, only the ultimate goal of the Jews. The immediate end for which they are working is the practically exclusive economic capture of Turkey.

This aspect of the Turkish revolution has an important political bearing on the problems of the Near East. The Jew hates Russia and its Government, and the fact that England is now friendly to Russia has the effect of creating a certain anti-British sentiment in committee circles.

This freemasonry which has been spoken of fraternised at first with the members of a new British lodge founded in Constantinople shortly after the establishment of the constitution. But the latter soon began to discover that the ways of the native lodges, which were mostly run by Jews, were but a travesty and a prostitution of true freemasonry, and eventually the Grand Lodge of Scotland pronounced them spurious, with the result that the English lodge closed its doors to all new masons here,

including the Ministers above mentioned These naturally took umbrage at this rebuff from the English, and this may in a measure account for a less friendly feeling towards the English

Further, some of the ultra-chauvinistic masons are working with the anti-Khedive and anti-English parties in Egypt.

It must be remembered that the Turkish element only numbers some 6,000,000 in an Empire of 30,000,000 Under a real constitutional regime it would be swamped, more especially as it is inferior to the majority in intelligence, instruction and business qualities. It can only maintain its position by the army and by the methods above described If it succeeds in reducing the Empire to mute subjection internally, it will probably adopt an active chauvinistic policy as regards Persia, Egypt, Greece and possibly Bulgaria So far it has only succeeded in estranging Ottoman and especially Syrian Arabs who, like Bulgarians, Greeks, &c have lost hope of a really constitutional régime in Turkey

The watchword of Young Turkey has then been "level" Under the guise of equal rights for all a policy has been initiated of removing all rights obtained under previous severe qus and the suppression of Christians and their privileges The revolt against this policy showed itself in a marked manner in Albania, where a military expedition of considerable proportions became necessary The campaign will be dealt with fully in another portion of this report, but it cannot be said that the success obtained has been a permanent one, and it is to be anticipated that a further expedition will be required Having imagined that the Albanian question was disposed of, the Government turned their hands to the Greeks. Sheltering themselves behind the cry of Greek iniquities in Crete, the Greeks in Turkey were relentlessly hailed, and the boycott of Greek shipping and Greek trade was initiated and carried out in a very thorough manner The influence of the Jews in Salonica, some of whom, as has been shown, occupied prominent positions in the Committee of Union and Progress, made itself felt and it soon became evident that the boycott was directed quite as much in the interests of the Jew merchants as to safeguard the honour of the country as regards Crete In the latter part of the year the revolting process was extended to the Druses. The demands these questions were usually exempt from military service, exemption from military service could not be granted was evident once the new regime has established the principle of equality, for all races in the Empire and Christians were called upon for military service, but perhaps the Government would have been better advised to be more lenient with regard to the levying of taxes in cases where the miserable condition of the people did not admit of their paying It seems, however, certain that Young Turkey will endeavour to extend the "levelling" system to the Kurds and the Arabs, which may prove to be a process even more difficult than that of Albania. Abdul Hamid's policy was that of dividing those whom he had to rule. The Young Turkey regime threatens to unite against itself all the elements which nothing else would bring together

As regards the Cretan question, while protests on the part of the Government during the year regarding Greece's action in Crete and Christian misdeeds in the island itself were frequent, there does not seem to have been any desire on the part of the Government to translate these protests into action although at times Europe seems to have become seriously alarmed that Turkey intended to do so. To satisfy Moslem opinion in the country these frequent protests were inevitable, but there does not appear to be any hope or desire on the part of the Ottoman Government to recover possession of Crete, though there is a firm intention on the part of all Turks that the island should not be acquired by Greece.

The attitude assumed by the Government and the Young Turks generally towards the Khedive during his stay in Turkey last summer was not without interest Last year it was generally reported that he had smiled upon them and even supported them financially for their party funds, &c. Doubtless owing to the secret support given by certain sections of the Committee of Union and Progress to the Nationalist movement, His Highness was less enthusiastic, and an endeavour on the part of some members of the committee to induce His Highness to join the committee met with a rebuff The Sultan, however received the Khedive warmly, but some of his Ministers were rather hesitating about the necessary visits to His Highness.

Throughout the year not only our subjects but those of other Powers suffered from repeated breaches of the Capitulations, and it is clear that Young Turkey has in her mind to be rid of them, and has established as a policy to that end the system of

repeated contraventions in the hopes of tiring out the Powers, and where satisfaction is not given to be able to point eventually to such cases as precedents. And it was not only as regards Capitulations but also as regards the ordinary law of the country that contravention became frequent Protestations at the Porte were usually met with promises to remedy and regrets that under the new regime officials were as yet insufficiently trained and were inexperienced

The new regime has failed to produce a class of men who show aptitude for Government Those called to fill Government offices in the interior have not unnaturally been selected amongst the young as being more in sympathy with the present movement A young man rarely carries weight in Turkey, and when he adds to that an absence of courtesy or a knowledge of men and of dealing with affairs, he is apt to become an object of ridicule and detestation, and is consequently unable to obtain the execution of his orders Moreover, as far as foreigners are concerned most of these men have endeavoured to show their patriotism by breaches of the Capitulations, in order to try and obtain favour amongst their countrymen In the late autumn there arose a distinct coldness between the Minister of War and the Minister of Finance, the former deeming Conduite strictly to the system of paying for military stores in the manner laid down by the law, the latter posing as the strictly constitutional Minister resisting this attitude But beneath this all lay really a struggle between the Saloniki Committee as represented by Djavid Bey, and the Minister of War, who represented much more the mass of the people, and who is represented by the Saloniki Committee as being almost a reactionary according to their views The quarrel was tided over by a compromise but the net result at the end of the year was that Mahmoud Shevket, who has succeeded in popularising himself with the army, had certainly gained ground.

It yet remains to be seen whether the moderate or violent section of the committee and of the Young Turks will gain the upper hand The violent section which depends on its Pan-Islamism, for its policy will no doubt lean towards Germany, while the moderates are more likely to favour more intimate relations with Great Britain and France

Indications were not wanting during the course of the year of a Pan Islamic policy and of a desire to support the Nationalist movement in Egypt, though the Government was careful to deny any such intentions of this nature

In December confidential information reached us as to the deliberations and resolutions of the congress of the Committee of Union and Progress, the authenticity of which there seems to be no reason to doubt

The employment of military force to suppress the Christian nationalities in Macedonia was discussed there These questions disposed of, Turkey would have a free hand to deal with her neighbours in the Balkans.

To achieve the foregoing Pan Islamism was the panacea, and Turkey must be able to count on the co-operation of Mussulman leaders all over the world, especially in the Caucasus, Persia, and in Egypt

Some interesting figures also came to light as to the membership of the committee, which is stated to be 185,000, and it is believed to have a balance of £20,000!

There can be little, be said to exist any doubt security in the Ottoman situation It has been asserted by one who should know Turkey well that it would require twenty-five years of peace to assure the success of the Young Turkey regime All their attention has hitherto been devoted to perfecting the Army, in which they have accomplished a marked success but in economic direction but little has been done. Nor have they shown any very great aptitude for parliamentary Government The new regime is little more liberal and parliamentary in spirit than that of Abdul Hamid It has been merely nationalist and martial There are, of course, good as well as bad elements in the Committee of Union and Progress, but the efforts of the Powers friendly to Turkey to assist the good and moderate elements in obtaining the upper hand in their councils have so far been somewhat disappointing.

Foreign Policy of Turkey

As regards the general line of policy of the Government or of those who dictated it, it cannot be said that they have taken a very decided direction The Cabinet has, throughout the year, been weak Generally speaking, it may be accepted that Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, Talaat Bey the Minister of the Interior; and Halajian, the Minister of Public Works, represented the views of the

committee The Grand Vizier and Rifaat Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, may be said to have taken their orders from the committee, though perhaps at times to have acted as a drag on its advanced sections; indeed, the Grand Vizier, although he was closely connected with the signature of the Bagdad convention, does not appear to be a man to commit himself very far towards any very compromising engagements. The Minister of War had but one idea, to form a strong army, with the conviction that, with a strong army, all other matters would settle themselves. Where the money was to come from, he frequently said himself, was no concern of his. From his education and lengthened stay in Germany, part of the time at Krupp's works, he somewhat naturally tends towards the Triple Alliance

To lose no more territory has been a cardinal point in the policy of the Young Turks, but I do not think they anticipate in the near future the recovery of any lost provinces. Thus they dread the interference of Bulgaria in Macedonia is obvious. Some favour a policy of conciliation towards the Christians of Macedonia, while others wish to pursue a policy of bullying the Christians in those regions, and the establishment of Moslem families from Bosnia.

It is perhaps more instructive to ascertain the views of the Committee of Union and Progress than to be guided by the tact and statements of the Government, and in this connection the Committee Congress which was held at Salonica in December, and which is alluded to in another portion of this report, is enlightening

From the speeches there delivered the views appeared to be that the sympathy aroused by the new régime in Turkey had provoked animosity on the part of Great Britain, France and Russia, who 'have so many Moslem Dominions in dependence,' that for this reason Turkish relations with the Triple Alliance were more sincere than those with the so-called 'Triple *Entente*.' They argued that England and France dragged politics into economic questions such as loans, but Germany and Austria were more circumspect, consequently the new régime were more conciliatory towards these Powers.

The general conclusion seemed to be that Turkey should for the present remain on good terms with both groups of the Powers, and should decline to enter into any entangling alliances and keep entire political independence until the reorganisation of the army and navy are complete.

With regard to the policy towards Bulgaria, the Congress advocated the disarmament of Christians, the destruction of bands, the granting of Patriarchists and Exarchists and the installation of Moslem immigrants in Christian villages. Such a policy would tend in their view to destroy all illusions as to the possible existence of a greater Bulgaria.

Bulgaria.

During the summer relations has become somewhat strained with Bulgaria owing to the violent and brutal methods employed by the Turkish authorities in disarming the Macedonian Christian population. The owners of arms invariably denied their possession of them, and the Turkish authorities, while admitting that they were compelled to have recourse to severe measures, sometimes even having resorted to torture. Torture was, I fear, undoubtedly employed, with the result that hundreds of Christians deserted the country and fled to Bulgaria, where they threatened to become a danger. Successful negotiations were completed for the repatriation of the majority of them. The above, then, may be taken as a general indication of the views that inspired the Government guided by the committee.

Greece.

As regards Greece the Turkish Government has during the year been specially active. The expression of their views has been a series of vexatious measures to endeavour to drive as many Greeks out of the country as possible. It must be admitted that the Greeks of Turkey have by their irritating attitude, and by the constant reference to national rights done much to incense the Turks. The Cretan question has, as a rule, been put forward as the excuse for Turkish action, though at times the Ottoman Government have resuscitated stories of Greek bands and intrigues in Macedonia.

The most vexatious of these measures has been the boycotting of Greek vessels, merchandise, merchants, shop-keepers, and also professions of all kinds. On the whole, the organisation of the boycott of the Greeks has been very complete and definite, though at times some foreigners suffered from the fact either of bearing Greek

names or of association with Greek partners. At first the Government intended that the will of the people in the matter could not be disputed, and made no effort on behalf of the Greeks, but later the severity of the boycott was, to a certain extent, relaxed. Still there is little doubt but what Greek commerce suffers very materially, though it is to be anticipated that the ingenuity of the Greek will in the end triumph over the Turk, and devious paths will be followed to enable the Greeks to maintain their commercial position.

The advent to power of M. Venizelos in Greece, which the Turks at first declared to constitute a menace or at least an insult to them, appears rather to have heralded an era of more peaceful relations.

Roumania and Servia.

With Roumania and Servia Turkey for the present seems to be on good terms, and there can be no doubt that the visit of the King of Servia to Constantinople was a success, and marked very distinctly the difference of relations existing between Turkey and Servia and Turkey and Bulgaria. One of the main objects of Servia is to obtain a free passage of her imports and exports and of arms and ammunition through Turkish territory.

The relations with Roumania have been specially cordial, and on the 17th September it was announced to the world that Turkey and Roumania had concluded some agreement to the effect, it was suggested, that in the event of an outbreak of a conflict between Turkey and Bulgaria Roumania would mobilise and her *corps d'armée* along the military frontier of Bulgaria, in order to be prepared for any eventuality and to give another proof of her friendship to the Turkish Government.

This followed upon a somewhat unnecessary visit of the Grand Vizier's to Roumania, where he was received by the King, and although several lukewarm denials were issued in the press, it was evident that Turkey was not ill pleased that rumours of an alliance should be credited, and although it seemed strange that so peace-loving and experienced a Sovereign as King Charles of Roumania should commit himself in such a critical juncture in the affairs of the Balkans, belief in such an arrangement gained considerable ground. What the advantages to be gained by Roumania were was not apparent, and it seemed to constitute an encouragement to Turkey to fall upon Bulgaria or Greece.

Rifaat Pasha made a declaration to me that no such arrangement had been signed, though the two Governments were agreed that they are a community of interests, and nothing more has recently been heard of the matter.

Great Britain.

Indications have not been wanting throughout the year that, in spite of protestations of amity on behalf of the Government of Turkey for Great Britain, those behind the Government have not been animated by the friendly feelings of which so much boast was made during the early days of the new régime. The fact that we personified constitutional Government was no doubt an important factor as long as this country was inspired by the desire to adhere as strictly as possible to such a form of Government. There exists, no doubt, also a consciousness that the leaders of the new régime have not succeeded in following the cardinal principles laid down, namely, that of equal treatment of all races in this country, that restrictions of political and personal liberty have been imposed, that a prolonged state of siege is not in harmony with constitutional Government, all this has created an unreasonable feeling of annoyance with us because they themselves have not succeeded in meriting more general approval in England. Constitutionalism has to a great extent vanished and with it the enthusiasm for England.

Young Turkey undoubtedly realises that in England there has been a feeling of disappointment and perhaps some criticism of the methods adopted, and the benefits conferred by us upon Turkey, during the first year after the revolution, have either been forgotten or purposely ignored, and there is undoubtedly a feeling of soreness against us. There evidently exists in the minds of Young Turks what to them appear to be legitimate reasons for this. In the Cretan question we have been regarded as the most influential of the protecting Powers, and the results obtained in this question have not fulfilled their expectations. Our occupation of Egypt is a sore that remains open, and whereas in the early days of the new regime those in power

decided to allow the question to slumber latterly the Nationalist idea has been warmly though secretly nursed.

As regards Persia, the Turkish Government has found itself confronted not only by Russian protests but by the fact that these protests were supported by Great Britain The revolution in Persia was encouraged and assisted by those who made the revolution here, and we have been criticised for not having given a proper measure of support to that movement.

The hatred of Russia is so traditional and ingrained in this country that in this connection we have had to bear our share of criticism of Russian methods and action in Persia

The fact that we were unable to comply with a request on the part of the Porte for the sale of ironclads for immediate delivery has also been construed as an unfriendly act and as favouring Greece at the expense of Turkey

We have also been unable to grant, unconditionally, the increase of the 4 per cent in the customs duties.

There exists an idea that the awakening of Mussulmans in India, Persia, and Egypt has excited distrust in England towards Mohammedanism, and, no doubt in secret, there has been a movement on the part of Turkey to enter into more direct and intimate relations with their co-religionists in those countries, which movement cannot but be directed against ourselves

The action of His Majesty's Government as regards the French loan, where our abstention, apparently at the demand of France, placed Turkey in a dilemma and compelled her to conclude a loan with Germany on less advantageous terms, was deeply resented And again and again our failure to come to the financial assistance of Turkey at that moment has been quoted as evidence that our sympathy is confined to words.

But perhaps the reason above all others for Turkish present want of sympathy for us is the profound suspicion that obtains as to our attitude with regard to the Persian Gulf and the protection extended towards the Sheikhs of Mohammerah and Koweit, which questions have been brought more into evidence recently in connection with the further works on the Bagdad Railway

Germany.

The attitude of Germany during the year 1909 towards Turkey had been one of political effacement, confining herself entirely to retaining her influence in the army and pushing her commercial people towards obtaining orders for military stores, and there has been little indication of any effort on the part of that country to play a political *rôle* as she had during the reign of Abdul Hamid She has been very careful during the past year not to comment here or to allow the prominent portion of the press in Germany to comment in an unfavourable manner on the unconstitutional methods employed by the Government of Turkey, nor to call attention to the hardships occasioned by officers, troops, and officials in the disarmament in Macedonia and Albania She has taken with extraordinary calm incidents in which German subjects have been ill-treated, and even murdered. There can be little doubt that this disinterestedness and this easy manner have been much appreciated by the Ottoman Government who by other Governments have been considerably harassed in such questions.

Moreover, Germany having "laid down the flute" as regards Crete, has not been exposed to the criticism of the chauvinists over the action of the protecting Powers. There has undoubtedly been during the past year a more marked leaning towards Germany and Austria, and the latter's action regarding Bosnia seemed to have been almost lost sight of The army has been, and always will be, pro-German, thanks to the fact that so many Turkish officers are educated in the Germany army and German officers in considerable numbers drill the Turkish troops. Moreover, the action of Germany at St. Petersburgh in connection with the Bosnian question profoundly impressed the Turks with the power of Germany, and is a lesson in the relative strengths of the Great Powers which Turkey will not readily forget

There is, moreover, an ingrained conviction in Turkey that Germany is not "suspect" as regards Ottoman territory "She neither occupies any Turkish province nor has she any ambition to do so" is the general view entertained by Turkey. How far this view is correct need not be examined here The influence to be gained by the Bagdad Railway they consider to be purely commercial and free from all attempts at territorial aggrandisement Two very important events came to the aid of German

influence in Turkey during 1910. After refusals on the part of Great Britain and France to sell armed cruisers to the Turks in what they considered to be a moment of peril, Germany was able to dispose of to her, though at quite a high price, two vessels which were sufficiently good to pass muster, and to enable her to pose as the saviour of Turkey against Greek aspirations That the German Emperor has taken the attitude of the Protector of Islam may also have had some influence over a section of the community, but a meeting which took place in the early winter in Pera to protest against the Anglo-Russian action in Persia, and at the conclusion of which a telegraphic appeal was sent to the German Emperor, which excited no reply, fell somewhat flat

But the main question on which Germany scored a real success was the loan. The details of this transaction will be dealt with elsewhere Suffice it to say that the French Government having refused their sanction to the flotation of a loan on the French Bourse, except on terms amounting almost to a control of Turkish expenditure, and British financiers having been "advised" by His Majesty's Government to abstain from giving the loan, the Germans came forward as the saviour of Turkey in a dilemma, and while the latter fully realised that the friendly act was a very costly one for them, yet the conclusion of the loan with Germany certainly constituted a great advantage for her to the detriment of France and Great Britain. Turkey appreciated the fact that Germany could not be a permanent lender, but it tided over a critical moment, and the gratitude felt has not unnaturally translated itself into acts in the shape of orders placed in Germany which might otherwise have come to ourselves or gone to France

Austria

Austria has given but little sign of life in the political field during the past year She is still regarded here as following blindly in the wake of Germany, but the soreness against her over the Bosnian annexation has to a great extent worn off, and as no evidence was forthcoming of her ever having given any support to the Albanian insurrectionary movement her position here has somewhat improved She has also given some indication that she is prepared to relax in a measure the strict interpretation of some of her Capitulation rights, and has signified her desire to open up negotiations for a commercial treaty

Russia

Russia although she has taken no further step on the subject of the abolition of the Capitulations since M. Tcharykow's circular to Russian consuls, has been endeavouring by vain arguments to contribute more friendly relations, and M. Tcharykow has closed his eyes to the unconstitutional methods that have been followed by the new regime There are so few real Russian subjects in the country that specific cases of breaches of Capitulations in which Russians are interested rarely occur. The Russian Embassy has frequently been compelled to make representations to the Sublime Porte regarding the encroachment of troops on Persian territory, but these have always been made in the most friendly spirit, and do not appear to have caused much irritation An endeavour has been made to obtain for Russian finance the concession for the Samsoun Sivas Railway, but so far without success.

Some effort has been made by Russia to draw Bulgaria closer to Turkey, and King Ferdinand's visit to the Sultan in the spring was undoubtedly undertaken at the instigation of Russia

A Bill passed the Chamber in the course of the year sanctioning the submission to The Hague Court of Arbitration of a long-standing difference between the Turkish and Russian Governments with regard to the execution of the treaty concluded at the close of the Russo Turkish war The question turns on whether the Ottoman Government are or are not liable for the interest due on the Russian private war claims up to the time of their settlement

But as long as the influence of the Jewish elements in the Salonica and Monastir branches of the Committee of Union and Progress remains, if not predominant, in any case powerful, this cannot but be directed against Russia, and will undoubtedly make itself felt whenever the question of the opening of the Straits to Russian men-of-war is propounded as a question of practical politics, and as long as the present party is in power it cannot be anticipated that the relations between Turkey and Russia are likely to become very cordial.

France.

M. Pichon in a recent speech on the foreign relations of France declared that, as regarded Turkey, France was on the best of terms, that the set back in connection with the loan was merely an incident in the history of a friendship which had shown itself in the most tangible manner by the granting of concessions and the employment of Frenchmen in the public service of Turkey, and that as regarded Crete the intervention of France had always been directed towards conciliation.

This description of the relations between France and Turkey, coming from the mouth of a French statesman, cannot be said to be exaggerated.

During the first half of the year the relations between the two countries were undoubtedly good, and no cloud of any importance darkened the horizon. Commercial missions and others were exchanged, and mutual flattery was exchanged.

The Soma-Panderma concession was, after lengthened negotiation, granted in favour of France, but, on the other hand, the concession which was sought for a line from Damascus to Baghdad was withdrawn. In the early stages of negotiation on the clear indication that it would be unfavourably received.

Smiles, however, quickly turned to frowns owing to the failure of the Finance Minister to obtain a sou on his own terms in Paris and violent abuse was heaped on France for her treachery in endeavouring to obtain a control over Turkish expenditure and thus interfering with her newly gained liberty.

The question of the loan has been dealt with exhaustively elsewhere and is only entered here as the reason for the temporary check to French popularity here, one of the practical features of which has been the disappearance since the failure of the loan of Monsieur Pichon's sobriquet. Turkish statesmen naturally realise that it is dangerous for them to quarrel with the chucker, and inasmuch as they appreciate the help given by Germany in moments of difficulty they realise that it is to France that they will have to turn when the financial necessities of the State require a further appeal for loans. It is yet too soon for them to be considering whether France will, in the future, impose the severe conditions that she wished to exact last summer.

The frontier troubles on the Tunisian border have been dealt with in the section on Turkey in Africa.

Later on a question arose as to the status of Algerians in Turkey. The matter has been under discussion for some six months between the French Embassy and the Porte, and is, I understand, on the point of being amicably settled.

Italy.

The new Italian Ambassador Baron Mayor des Planches, came to Constantinople early on the spring time with the very best intentions towards Young Turkey and the Committee of Union and Progress, and with the reputation of being a Jew and a freemason. He is neither the one nor the other but a man of very small but though not of a gorging disposition. His predecessor flattered himself that he had settled all questions between Turkey and Italy with the exception of that of the long-outstanding claims which he also believed to be on the point of arrangement, though it was not advanced at all since his departure. Baron Mayor des Planches seems to have been singularly unfortunate in the number of petty and vexatious questions that have arisen during his short residence here. He has not manifested any desire to play any special political rôle, and in the Cretan question he always showed a disposition to interpret his instructions freely so as to fall into line with the representatives of the other protecting Powers.

An unfortunate personal incident arising out of a dispute and an encounter between his cavass and a cab driver was the signal for an outburst of abuse of Italy in the papers, but the Ambassador was not slow to swallow his indignation, and although he obtained no satisfaction the incident was allowed to die a natural death.

The seizure in the Red Sea of an Italian "Lambuk" accused of smuggling embittered for a time the relations between the two countries, and although the matter has not yet been settled, it has been referred to a mixed commission.

The result has been a complete change of attitude in the mind and disposition of the Ambassador, and he now declares that Italy has no reason whatever for showing a specially friendly attitude towards Young Turkey. The latter's suspicions as regards Italy's designs upon Tripoli are maintained.

There is no outward evidence here of Italy being a partner in the Triple Alliance,

and her representative appears to hold aloof from any close relationship with the representatives of both groups of Powers.

United States.

When Mr Straus, a strong Zionist, was sent here as the Ambassador of America, it was supposed that his relations with the Government, so strongly supported by the Jews of Salonica, would secure for him a unique position, and that the one important scheme supported by very influential groups of American capitalists and strongly backed by President Taft and the State Department, would be promptly arranged. This was known as the Chester scheme, and was brought out for the building of some 2,000 kilom. of railway through Asia Minor. The cost was estimated at some 20,000,000, and provided for the cession to the group of some 20 miles of land, including mining rights on either side of the railway line. The gambling element in the scheme did not appeal to the Turkish conservative mind, even under the new regime, and the suspicion aroused was kept alive by German influence which saw in it a dangerous competitor to the future development of the Bagdad Railway.

After many ups and downs the American Ambassador, at the end of the last session of Parliament, believed that he had secured its passage through that Assembly, but a well timed protest by the German Ambassador against the scheme on the ground that it was a contravention of the mining law, and an encroachment on the rights of the Bagdad line, postponed the solution, and it is generally believed that the Ambassador's retirement from this post was caused by his disappointment at the non-fulfilment of the numerous promises given him by Turkish officials. The scheme is still being proceeded with and the German Ambassador has now rallied to its side the valuable support of the Minister of War, who previously was, from a military point of view, in favour of it. The latter recently gave as his opinion that no matter how good the scheme, "the granting of it to American would not compensate Turkey for the loss of German friendship and support which this would entail."

Prominent Men in 1910

The committee régime, since it rid itself of men of experience, is constantly complaining of the "dearth of men," and, being based on an anonymous and secret organisation the important men are necessarily not prominent. It is not then surprising that during the year 1910 but few have distinguished themselves in the arena of politics.

Some minor changes in the committee Cabinet resulted in Moussa Kazim being made Sheikh-ul-Islam and Colonel Mahmud Muktar Bey being appointed to the Ministry of Marine. Though according to the constitution the choice of the Sheikh-ul-Islam rests with the Sultan Caliph, Moussa Kazim was chosen by the committee. He is a man of some fifty odd years of age and is of Kurdish origin being reputed to have come originally from Kurdistan. He is a man of distinctly coarse type, and lacks both real learning and refinement from the Islamic scholarly standpoint. Many years ago he became religious preceptor to the son of one of Abdul Hamid's favourites, and subsequently got appointed, by the influence of the ex Sultan's librarian, member of the Council of the Ministry of Public Instruction. He joined the Committee of Union and Progress shortly after the revolution in July 1908, and was made a senator.

After the deposition of Abdul Hamid he entered one of the new political-masonic lodges, and thus enjoys the distinction of being the first Freemason Sheikh-ul-Islam, his predecessors in that office having pronounced the craft incompatible with orthodox Islamism. Despite his profession of broad, if not advanced views, he issued during Ramazan stringent ordinances respecting the observance of the fast, with the rather curious result that under the present freethinking régime some scores of Musulmans were imprisoned and, by decision of the court-martial, received the corporal punishment prescribed by the sacred law for breaches of the fast: a rigid adherence to the strict principles of Islam which had been unknown during the reign of Abdul Hamid.

Colonel Mahmud Muktar Bey, the new Minister of Marine is the tenth occupant of that office since July 1908. He is the son of Ghazi Muktar Pasha ex-Ottoman commissioner in Egypt, spent some eight years in a Prussian regiment, speaks German and French with facility, and for Turkey is fairly wealthy, through his wife, Princess Nimet, daughter of the Khedive Ismail Pasha, and aunt of the present Khedive.

Before and during the Akaba incident in Egypt he, together with the German Jew Oppenheim, displayed great activity on anti-British lines. During the Turco-Greek war he secured the Greeks their one success by his indiscreet frontal-attack charge at Velestino. After the Turkish revolution in 1908 he was made commandant of the Constantinople army corps, and by his drastic Prussian methods largely contributed to producing among the garrison the frame of mind which was one of the chief causes of the mutiny of the 13th April, 1909.

It was subsequently thought advisable that he should temporarily disappear from the capital and was accordingly sent as vali to Smyrna, where he remained until his nomination last December to the Ministry of Marine. He is a man of determination and ambition, but wanting in judgment and tact. He is far from popular with the navy, and many predict for him a short tenure of office at the Turkish Admiralty.

In the Chamber of Deputies some of the non-committee deputies have gained a certain prominence by their attempts at effective opposition to the committee Government. Among these are Dr Riza Tewfik Bey, already noticed in previous annual reports, Ismail Bey, deputy for Gumuljina, Lutfi Fikri Bey, deputy for Dersim, and Feraï Bey, deputy for Kutahia in Asia Minor.

Ismail Bey Gumuljina was one of the original founders some eight years ago of the Committee of Union and Progress, and after the assembly of the Ottoman Chamber was elected vice-president of the committee party in Parliament. He is a man of great determination of character, and played an active part in the overthrow of Kamil Pasha and Abdul Hamid. He subsequently got disgusted with the despotic methods of the committee and eventually joined the Opposition. In the Chamber he had fearlessly attacked the reactionary methods of the present Government, e.g., the bastinado and cruelties perpetrated in Albania and Macedonia during the disarmament, the tortures inflicted in the capitulation protocol of points and the terrorist methods used to gag the Opposition press. He has been the recipient of several threatening letters.

Jemil Fikri Bey, deputy for Dersim, or Kurdistan, is the son of a former governor of that district and a lawyer by profession. After Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, he is probably the most liberal, ready, and effective speaker in the Chamber. During the recent debate he left the Young Turk Government and rather dramatically produced at the tribune some specimens of the instruments of torture used in the course of the court-martial trials. He has also received threatening letters and is careful not to be out after dark.

Feraï Bey, deputy for Kastamuni, was a member of the committee from which he dissociated himself for the same reasons as Ismail Bey. During the old régime he worked against the ex-Sultan, and spent a considerable time between Cairo and Geneva. He has made a special study of foreign and internal questions, and was at one time the political editor of the committee organ, the "Sourai Ummet." He is a good speaker and a master of the modern simple style of Turkish.

Riza Nour Bey, deputy for Sinope, and originally an adherent of the committee, was probably the most "prominent" member of the Chamber during 1910 owing to his having been implicated, however remotely, in the court-martial action on a charge of belonging to a secret revolutionary association. The case against him dwindled down to an attempt to prove that he had been in communication with Sherif Pasha, resident at Paris.

During the present session the committee "party" has adopted the tactics of listening in silence to the utterances of their opponents, with the result that few of its members have made their mark during the debates. The leader of the "party" in the Chamber is Khalil Bey, deputy for Mytilene, in the south of the Smyrna vilayet. He is a native of Mytilene, where he owns considerable property, is for Turkey a comparatively rich man, and studied agriculture at the French National Agricultural School at Grignon. He is also a student of Herbert Spencer, Jean Jacques Rousseau, and other French political philosophers. He is a great admirer of French institutions, and was fired with the desire to apply to Turkey the principles of the French revolution. He is a man of intelligence, though lacking in experience of the world, as also of the Ottoman Empire, is a sincere patriot, possesses directness of purpose and determination, though he is perhaps wanting in the finer perceptions. Physically he is exceptionally robust and rotund, and is consequently a great favourite with the caricaturists of the native comic papers.

Ahmed Nessimi Bey, committee deputy for Constantinople, and one of the official delegates of the Salonica Committee, is a Cretan from Canea, was formerly an employé

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and speaks French with a certain fluency, as also Greek. Under a certain Western veneer he conceals many of the defects of the Cretan character. He is also a member of the board of the National Bank. He has not yet spoken in the Chamber.

Hairi Bey, the deputy for Nigdeh, in Anatolia, is a quiet, unassuming man of legal training. He is a sincere patriot and a zealous worker. He has lately been made Minister of the Evcaf, i.e., Pious Foundations, and is one of the committee candidates for the Ministry of Justice.

Hajji Adil Bey, the chief secretary of the Committee of Union and Progress, is the adopted son of a worthy customs official. He is a man of middle age of moderate views and intelligence and honesty of purpose. He filled for over a year the post of Vali of Adrianople, but displayed but small administrative capacity. His present functions are sometimes compared to those of the first secretary of the ex-Sultan.

Finance.

In spite of a considerable increase of actual over estimated receipts at the end of the fiscal year 1325, computed in round figures at £T 1,500,000, it would be rash to say that the condition of Turkish finance is any brighter than a twelvemonth ago. The Minister of Finance was, indeed able to announce that he had entered on the fiscal year 1326 (1910-11) with a surplus of some £T 2,000,000, but this surplus was in reality merely the unexpended balance from the loans of 1908 and 1909 respectively £T 1,400,000 and £T 7,000,000, nominal after meeting the deficit and covering the extraordinary budget of 1909-10, and in spite of this surplus he has been obliged once more to have recourse to borrowing again on a large scale during the year under review. Even so, many competent observers entertain serious doubts whether Turkey will be able to balance expenditure and receipts for the current and next financial years. For this unfortunate state of affairs it would not be fair to lay the whole blame at the door of the Minister of Finance, who, as is shown by the preparation of his budget and by his conflict with the Minister of War in October, has been genuinely anxious for economy and for proper control of expenditure, but the demands of the War Department, supported by the popular sentiment that requires the creation and maintenance of an army worthy of a first-class Power, and the more legitimate calls for productive works of public utility prove too strong with Parliament, and Djavid Bey's estimates of expenditure for 1326 (1910-11) were increased in passing through the Chamber by almost 18 per cent., i.e., from £T 29,503,163 to £T 34,789,270.

Budget of 1326 (1910-11).

The budget law was voted in June and showed total ordinary expenditure of £T 32,161,850, and total revenue of £T 27,375,849, as against £T 29,767,068 and £T 24,411,440 respectively for the preceding year. The noteworthy items of expenditure are those for the War Department £T 8,771,020 plus £T 1,717,252 for the manufacture of war material, for Public Works £T 1,131,908, and for the Admiralty £T 1,598,745. The last item is of interest, as at present cannot include the £T 1,000,000 to be paid for the two dreadnought warvessels obtained from Germany. It is true that there is a belief that the money for these ships will be provided from the national subscription for the fleet, but it is scarcely possible that "voluntary" contributions, even when collected by the methods of the Committee of Union and Progress, will suffice to cover both this and the £T 5,500,000 of the Government's building programme.

Of the revenue of £T 25,355,849, £T 6,575,975 is to be derived from the tithes, £T 2,538,748 from the land tax, £T 1,758,422 from the sheep tax, £T 1,256,932 from the military exemption tax, £T 4,110,869 from the customs, and £T 3,256,502 from State monopolies, Post Office, &c.

The extraordinary budget amounts £T 2,627,740, of which £T 1,705,653 is assigned to the Ministry of War, and the remainder £T 1,092,087 to the Public Works Department.

There is no extraordinary revenue brought in account.

The total expenditure is thus £T 34,789,270, and the estimated deficit £T 9,433,421. Part of this formidable deficit will be covered by the surplus from 1325, and the revenue returns have hitherto been so satisfactory that it may be safely assumed that the estimates will be considerably exceeded, perhaps by as much as £T 1,500,000. On the other hand, it is beyond question that the expenditure will not

be kept within the budget limits. The Minister of War has admitted that his own estimates had been exceeded by £T 500,000 in round figures, part of which may represent the cost of the campaign in Albania and of the military manœuvres; but, besides this and the purchase of the "Kurfurst Friedrich Wilhelm" and "Wissenburg" already mentioned there are heavy and unforeseen calls on the Treasury, such as the operations in the Hauran and at Kerak, the damage done to the Hedjaz Railway and the Yemen expedition, while the reorganisation of the army now in process may be expected to involve more than the normal expenditure provided for. The probabilities, therefore, are that the year will close with a deficit of well over £T 7,000,000, a serious figure in a budget of £T 25,000,000 to £T 26,000,000.

The difference will, of course, be covered by the loan contracted with the German group for £T 11,000,000.

Budget for 1327 (1911-12)

The budget for 1327 (1911-12) was laid before the Chamber on the 1st November, and provides for an aggregate expenditure of £T 31,120,137, of which £T 9,319,110 is allotted to the Ministry for War and for the manufacture of war material, £T 1,378,42[illegible] to the navy, and £T 1,130,331 to public works. Here, again, it is clear that in the navy vote there is no room for the purchase of war-vessels to the total value of £T 5,500,000 spread over ten years on which the Government has decided. The vote for public works comprises £T 97,166 for the Samsoun-Sivas Railway, and £T 118,128 for the construction of roads. There is no mention of the Mesopotamian irrigation works to which £T 175,000 were devoted in the previous year.

The revenue is estimated at £T 27,887,888, as against £T 20,015,101 for the preceding year, but to make a just comparison between the ten years it must be remembered that the estimates for 1327 (1911-12) are the gross estimates, and therefore include £T 987,147 belonging to various civil and military pension funds which appeared as "budget annexes" in 1326. The estimated deficit is thus £T. 6,232,249. There seems to be good grounds for believing that the expansion of revenue will continue next year, though, of course, much depends on the harvest and that in this matter the subject will be reduced somewhat, but, on the other hand, the estimated expenditure is more likely to be increased than reduced during its passage through the Chamber, and again if the naval programme is to be realised, an extraordinary budget seems inevitable, or would further demands from the Ministry of War create any surprise. Djavid Bey, however, talks airily of reducing the deficit to some £T 5,000,000, which in future years he hopes to cover by additional taxation, viz., customs, tobacco, petroleum monopoly, "prestations," stamps, "droits de transferts," &c., and by a more direct administration of the tobacco régie. But for the year 1911-12 it would be sanguine to anticipate any considerable yield from these sources, or that the discrepancy between receipts and expenditure will be appreciably diminished.

It is extremely difficult to offer any appreciation of the actual position of Turkish finances at any given moment. Djavid himself has never attempted to make any definite statement supported by figures, the nearest approach to anything of the kind being his announcement, above referred to, that at the commencement of the financial year 1328 (1910-11) he had a balance of £T 7,000,000 in hand. Starting from this point, and taking the estimates for 1326 and 1327 as a base, we get the following results—that on the two years there is an estimated deficit of £T 15,665,000 (£T 9,433,000 + £T 6,232,000). To meet this formidable sum there is, so far as is publicly known, only £T 12,300,000, viz. (1) the alleged surplus from 1325, £T 2,000,000 (2) the product of the 1910 (German) loan of £T 11,000,000 i.e., in round figures £T 9,500,000, and (3) the 18,000,000 fr. of Abdul Hamid's deposits in Berlin, say, £T 800,000. This very summary calculation can, of course, have no pretension to give an accurate forecast of what the position will be fifteen months hence, but it may be confidently asserted that the real expenditure will advance at least *pari passu* with any expansion of revenue, and that no other extraordinary receipts are likely to fall in during this period, and the fresh sources of revenue which Djavid hopes to tap are scarcely likely to produce enough to make equilibrium possible.

The frankness with which Djavid Bey confesses to the existence of crushing deficits is remarkable enough, but I am not sure that the omissions in his budgets are not even more remarkable than his admissions. In the budgets themselves one looks in vain to discover what provision has been made for expenditure that has been incurred or has been decided on (*e.g.*, the Albanian and Yemen expeditions), or to

learn to what use Abdul Hamid's treasure is to be put, nor does the *exposé des motifs* cast any light on these matters to assist the curious. Djavid Bey deluges us with figures showing the considerable sums in the way of advances, &c., that have been paid off (mostly by the Public Debt) since the constitutional era commenced, and he prides himself that the new charges are almost covered by the reduction of debt, but nothing like a statement of account is vouchsafed. The probability is that, with a Minister for War who refuses to be tied down by any system of Treasury control, and with an occult body behind the Minister of Finance whose commands he dare not disregard, the Government could not produce any such statement, and that even if they could do so they dare not. Hence their objection to pass the "trésorerie" of M. Laurent, which Djavid himself warmly approved until he saw that it must entail an exposure of the true state of affairs, an exposure which would be as damaging to the Committee of Union and Progress at home as to the credit of the Empire in the money markets abroad. Djavid's reticence is significant enough, and gives ground for attaching credence to the suggestion made by M. Goblet in the 'Correspondance d'Orient' that alongside the published budget there is a whole series of transactions the details of which are never allowed to transpire. It is at any rate safe to say that for some little time to come the Ottoman Minister of Finance will have to comfort himself with M. Lizzatti's dictum, printed by Djavid at the head of his 1327 budget, that "le déficit budgétaire a une vertu éducatrice."

The Floating Debt.

Nothing has been done towards the settlement of the floating debt, now officially estimated at £T 19,531,000 (of which more than £T 4,000,000 is due to the State Agricultural Bank), but Djavid Bey promises to have a Bill dealing with it before the Chamber this session.

Financial Legislation

The parliamentary mountain has laboured much during the year, but except for the 'Loi sur la Comptabilité' has brought forth very little. That Act is described by M. Laurent who drafted it, as a veritable code of budgetary legislation, but the two other acts necessary to complete the financial groundwork of the State, viz., the "Loi pour la Cour des Comptes" and a law to define the rôle of the State Bank are only in course of preparation. Only one other Act deserves attention, and that in spite of its temporary character, viz., the Act hastily passed by the Chamber empowering the Minister of War to divert from the purposes for which they were voted no less than £T 4,000,000 out of the £T 9,000,000 allotted by the budget to his department. No one questions that Shevket Pasha will employ this money for any purposes but those which he put forward to explain his request for this *virement*, viz., the reorganisation of the army, but the fact that the Chamber sanctioned the measure shows how little respect Parliament has for its laws, and suggests misgivings as to the efficacy of the control of Treasury to which M. Laurent attaches so much importance.

Other measures that have been under discussion are for the reform of the currency, of the real estate tax ("emlak vergissi"), of the "droits de patente" (temettu), of the "aghnam" (sheep-tax), and for the establishment of a petroleum monopoly.

To add to the intricacies of Turkish finance, the Government has adopted a new ratio between the gold and silver piastre, viz., 100 gold = 102 silver, and this rate has been adopted above in converting the silver piastres of the budget to Turkish pounds.

The 1910 *Loan.*

Djavid Bey opened negotiations with the Ottoman Bank in Paris for the loan in July, but he was met with a demand not only for the assignment of adequate revenues as security, but also for the adoption of M. Laurent's scheme for the control by the Ottoman Bank for the operations of "trésorerie." This latter condition Djavid entirely declined to accept, and the relations between him and the Ottoman Bank on the one hand and M. Laurent on the other became extremely strained, and negotiations were broken off. Djavid then turned to another group of French banks (the Crédit mobilier, Bernard Jarislowsky and Louis Dreyfus), and in spite of Sir E. Cassel's advice given to him in London to make terms with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, concluded a contract with them on the 8th August for a 4-per-cent loan of

£T 11,000,000, to be paid over in two instalments, the first of £T 6,000,000 this year and the balance next year. The price to the Ottoman Government was to be 86, but it was hoped that the loan could be floated at 92. The customs revenues of the vilayet of Constantinople were assigned as security for the service of the loan, a security which was not offered to the Ottoman Bank. The French Government, however, when approached for the purpose, declined to allow the loan to be quoted on the bourse, and the operation was consequently suspended, the syndicate retaining an option to carry out the contract up to the 15th October. The urgency of the need for money made Djavid's return to Constantinople a matter of immediate necessity, and it was therefore arranged between Lam and the Grand Vizier whom he subsequently met at Vienna, that the latter should proceed to Paris and resume negotiations with the French Government. Djavid himself reached Constantinople early in September, and succeeded in obtaining advances to the amount of £T 2,000,000 by the issue of six months' Treasury bills at rates of interest varying from 4½ per cent. to 5·95 per cent. Of this £T 500,000 was taken by the Banque de Salonique nominally, but really by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and of course with the full knowledge of Djavid Bey.

In Paris meanwhile Hakki Pasha was making no progress in his negotiations for the *cote*, which the French Government had various reasons for refusing to grant unless forced to pay. The security of the Constantinople customs was of course ample, but it was felt that Paris treated the Porte too perfunctorily shown towards Greece by the Turks might be dangerously encouraged by the acquisition of a loan that it was the duty of the Government to secure that if large sums were to be borrowed in Paris for the purchase of material &c. a reasonable proportion of the orders should be placed with French firms, and that it was in the interests of Turkey herself no less than of the bondholders that a proper system of finance and control should be established. These views were explained to the Porte by M. Laurent-Eynac, but were coldly received by the Porte. Hostile views were expressed in general conference between the French Government and His Majesty's Government when the question of a loan to Turkey might in their opinion further be considered, but the suggestion that one of the conditions which the French Government attached to the *cote* should be an undertaking to ask Parliament's sanction to the Baghdad Railway was unacceptable. Hakki Pasha was therefore informed that if the *cote* were to be granted the French Government required assurances (1) that all orders for materials to be paid for out of the proceeds of the loan were to be placed in France, Belgium and Austria-Hungary as well as in Great Britain on equal conditions, as that of any other non-Power, and (2) that M. Laurent-Eynac's 'services' were to be secured as the effective guarantee of the same. Loan should be accepted in Turkey and certain articles of the French Government. Both conditions were refused by the Turks, but the real stumbling-block was the second, as it was clear from the initial query of the latter that Hakki Pasha was allowed to propose that Djavid should be appointed Director of the Ottoman Bank. Djavid's appointment was strongly opposed by the Ottoman Bank, for although the matter had been negotiated with another French group, Djavid was firmly convinced that the requirements of the French Government regarding the Director-ship had been inspired by M. Laurent in the interests of the Ottoman Bank. Djavid had good reason to believe that he had the sympathy and certain strong support of the National Bank which, as Sir E. Cassel had assured him in London in July, would endeavour to come to his assistance if he failed to pass the Loan Laws.

Sir E. Cassel was accordingly invited to meet Hakki Pasha in Paris, and a preliminary understanding made by the former subordinate to the approval of His Majesty's Government was at once reached. The intervention of the National Bank at this conjuncture was hailed by the French press and Government, who felt that it was incompatible with the *entente* between Great Britain and the republic, and their irritation was increased by suspicions of Sir Ernest's relations with German finance, suspicions which had received seeming confirmation from a visit he had recently paid to Berlin, with the object as it was reported to Lord Cowley by His Majesty's Embassy in Berlin, of securing assistance in case he undertook the Turkish loan. At the instance of the French Government Sir Ernest was therefore invited to withdraw from the negotiations with the Grand Vizier, and in informing the French Government of the fact, His Majesty's Government also intimated that they would endeavour to discourage any other London group from taking up a Turkish loan.

The Paris and London markets being thus closed to him Djavid turned to Germany, and on the 9th November agreements were signed with the Deutsche Bank, repre-

senting a group of German and Austrian financial houses, which provided for a loan of £T 11,000,000 at 4 per cent. interest, 1 per cent. sinking fund, and issued to the Turkish Government at 81½. The agreement, which is incorporated in two contracts, provided that the Government should issue Treasury bonds falling due in May 1911 for £T 3,500,000 which were to be discounted by the banks at 5½ per cent., and the proceeds were to be deposited at the Deutsche Bank, which allows 3½ per cent. interest, less ⅛ per cent. commission. The loan itself was to be made in two parts out of the first of which, £T 7,040,000, these bonds are to be redeemed, and which was to be issued within twelve months, the second part of the loan, £T 3,960,000, is only to be issued, if the Government desires it, in 1912. The loan is secured on the receipts of the customs of the Constantinople vilayet.

The terms of the loan are very much less favourable than those offered by the Crédit mobilier group, and the announcement of its conclusion called forth a storm of adverse criticism in the local press, one well-edited financial paper calculating that the loss in cash to the Government was no less than £T 316,000, and that the rate of interest worked out at 7¼ per cent. It may be doubted, however, whether the German banks drove so hard a bargain as they might have done, and it is notorious that they were somewhat embarrassed to find the money, but, on the other hand, they were influenced by the knowledge that most of it would remain in Germany to pay for the large Turkish orders for military material, &c. It is said that there was no political 'consideration' Germany was of course extolled to the skies as the "friend in need," and corresponding abuse was lavished on Great Britain and France. But the tone of the press to the latter Powers soon moderated, as Djavid realised the folly of quarrelling too far with the Government on whose goodwill Turkey would sooner or later have to rely for further financial relations, and by the end of the year it had changed to one of fawning friendliness.

To go back a few weeks the intimation that His Majesty's Government desired that he would come has had come to Sir E. Cassel, who according to his own account had kept the Foreign Office fully acquainted with all his actions, was a disagreeable surprise, nor is this very astonishing when all the circumstances are reviewed from the time when the creation of a bank in Turkey was first urged on him. In the winter of 1908, it was represented to him that the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which though nominally Anglo-French had for some years been conducted entirely in French interests, was making great and illegitimate profits out of its transactions with the Porte, and that by underbidding it he could at once make reasonable profits and gain the great goodwill and future favour of the country. The marvel of the Young Turks to power and the violent dislike shown by them to the Ottoman Bank which they identified with the corruption of the Hamidian regime confirmed and extended the prospects of a British bank, and accordingly Sir E. Cassel, with the encouragement and approval of His Majesty's Government, who among other reasons, were pleased to see the Deutsche Bank in this country supported by British finance, accepted the Turkish invitation to found the National Bank of Turkey and placed on the board of the new bank Djavid, until he became Minister of Finance, and his *fidus Achates*, Hussein Jahid, both prominent members of the Committee of Union and Progress. The National Bank thus started on its career pledged in the eyes of the world to support the fortunes of the Committee of Union and Progress, and to "knock out" the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and its very first steps, i.e. its tenders for the 1909 loan, and the Constantinople municipal loan in competition with the Ottoman Bank naturally confirmed the belief. Sir Ernest clearly believed that he could once again appear, so to speak, as the champion of the innocent princess held in bondage by the ogre of the bank, and he had not in the least realised that under the régime of the Committee of Union and Progress Government the princess had been transformed into a vigorous and aggressive virago. This ignorance on his part was only to be expected for of his chief correspondents, Sir H. Babington Smith is quite convinced of Djavid's genuine honesty of administration, and scarcely enquires into the policy of the party which Djavid represents, while Sir Adam Block, the warm admirer of the Committee of Union and Progress, and the inveterate detractor of the Ottoman Bank, fully shared Djavid's belief that France's refusal of the *cote* was really made at the instigation of that bank. Thus it was that Sir E. Cassel failed to see that in coming to the rescue of the Turks he was opposing the interests not of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, as he thought, but of France, and was giving valuable moral and monetary support to a political party in Turkey whose policy, both internal and external, was wholly out of harmony with the views and interests of Great Britain. How little, indeed, he grasped the political aspects of the case appears from his endeavour to mediate between the

Turks and the French. The offer was not declined, but the French Minister declined to meet him personally, as he considered that Sir Ernest's real aim all along was to come to some understanding with his German connections to dispute the commanding position of French finance in Turkey, and the negotiations were entrusted to Sir H. Babington Smith, but, as was to be expected, his efforts to find a solution were fruitless.

In the circumstances it was not surprising that Sir E. Cassel should consider that he had a serious grievance against His Majesty's Government. In his view he had been "encouraged," to say the least of it, to open the National Bank, and had conducted it as he believed entirely on lines approved by them. The results had not been what he had hoped, and now when a transaction presented itself, promising substantial profits on precisely the same lines as had been approved by them not long before, they requested him to abstain from it. There was not much to say in reply to this statement of the case, and His Majesty's Government hastened to explain to the French Government the awkward position in which they stood *vis-à-vis* of the National Bank, and to intimate that it would be impossible for them to undertake to exercise the same control over the bank in future. The French Government, who warmly acknowledged the friendly action of Great Britain, quite appreciated the situation, and gave its support to a proposal to find a solution of the situation by a fusion of the interests of the two banks. The Imperial Ottoman Bank, however, had no taste for the proposal, and the negotiations commenced by Sir H. Babington Smith in Paris were shortly dropped.

In these circumstances Sir E. Cassel found it necessary to intimate to His Majesty's Government that unless it was understood that the National Bank was to have a free hand in the future, he and his friends, Lord Revelstoke and Sir Alexander Henderson, would have to consider the closing of the bank. It was informed in reply that, while His Majesty's Government hoped that the bank would keep the door open for Anglo-French financial co-operation in Turkey, they could not deprecate the bank taking such action as might be deemed best in its own interest and in the hope that it might lead to some proposals from Paris an intimation was made again to the French Government that Her Majesty's Government would find it impossible to interfere again in the bank's liberty of action. At the end of the year, however, the directors of the bank were considering whether the prospects of business were sufficiently good to warrant them in continuing to work in Turkey, and there was some idea of fusing the bank with the Banque de Salonique, an establishment possessing only a small capital, but enjoying the support of the Committee of Union and Progress.

The National Bank's loan of £T 1,000,000, secured on the tolls of the Golden Horn bridges to the municipality of Constantinople was concluded early in the year, and the bank has also negotiated a loan of £T 200,000 to the municipality of Bagdad, but the operation still awaits the sanction of the Imperial Government.

Public Works in Turkey.

The Department of Public Works has shown some activity during the past twelve months, and has worked more or less on the lines laid down in the programme drawn up in 1908 by Gabriel Effendi Noradounghian, the former Minister.

Roads.

Contracts were made in July last with a French group—A. Giros and Loucheur, of Paris, Fougerolles Frères, of the Syndicat des Entrepreneurs de France, and the Société des grands Travaux de Marseille—who have formed themselves into a company called the Société générale d'Entreprises des Routes de l'Empire ottoman, for the construction of roads in the following districts:—

	Kilom.
Constantinople, Adrianople, Tchataldja, Ismid, Bolu	1,197
Scutari in Albania, Monastir, Jaunina	1,079
Brussa, Karasi	368
Smyrna, Konia, Adana	903
Angora, Kastamouni	1,307
Sivas, Erzeroum, Van, Trebizond, Samsoun	2,184
Kharpout, Ismid, Diarbekir	942
Aleppo, Aqdad, Urfa, Deir-e-Zor	1,173
Damascus, Beyrout, Jerusalem, Lebanon	439
Total	9,512

The group is supported by the Banque française pour le Commerce et l'Industrie (Rouvier's Bank) and the Société marseillaise. The work undertaken, and which is to be completed by the end of 1912, will cost about £T 2,000,000, and negotiations are at present proceeding between the Minister of Finance and the agent of Rouvier's Bank for a loan in order to meet this expenditure.

A German group, Dieterhoff and Wiedmann, secured the contract for building and repairing roads of a total length of 1,352 kilom. in the Salonica and Kossovo provinces of European Turkey.

Railways.

Tripoli-Homs.—The concession for this short railway of about 100 kilom. was granted to the Régie générale des Chemins de Fer, the concessionnaires of the Rayak–Homs-Hama-Aleppo Railway, in October 1909. It is to be a branch of the main line, and is of the same gauge, viz., 1·45 metres. Construction has been carried on very rapidly, and it is expected the company will be able to open the line to traffic in a very short time. This line enjoys no kilometric guarantee, the expiry of the concession is to synchronise with the termination of that of the Rayak–Aleppo main line, the Government being able to exercise its right of purchase only if both lines are bought out at the same time.

Panderma-Soma.—Length 190 kilom. This concession was granted in July last to the Société du Chemin de Fer Smyrne-Cassaba (Régie générale des Chemins de Fer), and will form the extension to the Sea of Marmora of the company's line, which branches off from the main system Smyrna-Aidin-Karahissar—at Magnesia to Soma. When completed this line will form one of the two Asiatic routes—the other being via Dadar-Lesha-Eskisheh-Afion Karahissar—between the capital and Smyrna. The line is to be of normal gauge, viz., 1·44 metres, and its construction has to be completed within three years after the date of the submission of the plans and surveys to the Department. By a special convention, signed in December last funds for the building of this railway are to be raised by the issue of 77,832 Government bonds of 500 fr. each, bearing interest at 4 per cent., and redeemable during the period of the concession. Although the Government has to make the necessary provision for the payment of interest and sinking fund, the company on the other hand undertakes at the end of each working year to pay into the Treasury a sum from the total gross earnings equal to the amount due for interest and sinking fund, and for which the Government is responsible. Any insufficiency of traffic receipts to cover the service of interest and sinking funds has to be made good by the company.

Hodeida-Sana'a.—Length 240 kilom. of 1·05 metre gauge. The preliminary contract of concession was signed in September 1909 on behalf of David Effendi Leon Bey, of Paris, and surveys of the line to be constructed were carried out by the concessionnaire and engineers of the Public Works Department in the early part of 1910. Owing to the mountainous character of the country through which the railway will have to pass in order to reach the Sana'a plateau, and the maximum limit of cost of construction (£T 7,200 per kilometre) fixed by the Government, and which includes the cost of building the port at Djibana, the engineers experienced some difficulty in determining the *tracé* of the railway. The concession has, however, been granted to David Leon Bey for a term of ninety-nine years, and the cost of construction has now been fixed at £T 6,200 per kilometre. Work is to be commenced immediately on the arrival of the staff of engineers who have already left Marseilles, attention will be directed to the construction of the port of Djibana, and to the line as far as Oba, passing through Badjil. New surveys will have to be made from Obal onwards towards Sana'a with a view of finding an easier and less costly *tracé*, so that it is hardly likely the whole line will be completed within the three years stipulated in the convention. An extension of the line to Amran is contemplated after the railway has reached Sana'a. As in the case of the Panderma-Soma concession, the funds for building this line are also to be obtained by the issue of 4 per cent. Government bonds, which will be redeemable in ninety-five years. All traffic receipts of the railway over and above working expenditure are to be set aside for the service of interest and sinking fund, the concessionnaire making good any insufficiency, and participating in any surpluses in the proportion of one-third, the two thirds going to the Treasury.

Jedda-Mecca.—Length about 60 miles, and of 1·05-metre gauge. This short line is to be built and administered by the Hedjaz Railway administration.

Samsoun-Sivas.—Length about 370 kilometres. A technical commission made extensive surveys last spring on behalf of the French group, the Régie générale des

Chemins de Fer, but the Public Works Department later on decided upon having a careful and independent examination of the *tracé* between Samsoun and Havza, a point some 70 kilometres inland. On the termination of this Government survey, tenders were called for the construction, on Government account, of this first section but the conditions were not sufficiently inviting to appeal to contractors. Having failed to place the contract for the whole, the department has now split up the section into ten different lots, hoping thus to attract small, especially native contractors. Only three of these small lots have, so far, been taken up, the contractors only undertaking the construction of earthworks and small culverts and bridges.

Baba Eski-Kirk Kilisseh.—This is a branch from the main line (Constantinople-Adrianople), and its construction has been undertaken by the Oriental Railway Company, the lessees of the main line. The concession which has been granted to the above company is for forty-seven years, and the line will be about 60 kilom. in length.

Constantinople-San Stefano.—The line between the capital and the suburb of San Stefano is to be doubled, and it is intended to begin the work in the early spring.

Bagdad Railway.—Work has been proceeding actively with the extension of this line, both from the railhead at Bulgurlu towards Adana as well as from Adana itself, and the section to the foot of the Taurus range on the Bulgurlu side is nearing completion.

For strategical reasons, the proposed alternative *tracé* for carrying the railway from Adana through Alexandretta, and on to Aleppo, has been abandoned in favour of the original route, with the important modification, however, that the line will go through Aleppo instead of passing to the north of that town at Tel Habesh, as was originally proposed.

Projected Railways.

Chester scheme is still in abeyance.

Surveys have been made for the following projected railways:—

1. Kumanovo-Kustendil.
2. Djuma-i-Bala-Demirhissar.
3. Danube-Adriatic.
4. Karaferia-Serdjeh, to the Greek frontier.

Surveys are to be undertaken for the following:—

Eregli (Bagdad Railway)-Bor, Nighdeh, Cæsarea.
Angora-Yozgat.
Ilgin-Jumma-Aylona.

Ports.

Preliminary surveys have been made by the technical section of the Department of Public Works for the construction of harbours at:—

Tripoli in Syria.
Alexandretta.
Lattakia.
Jaffa.
Mersina.
Heraclea (Black Sea).
Amastra " "
Rodosto " "

Tenders have been invited for the construction of the latter harbour, and steps are being taken with a view to enlarge the port of Salonica.

The Tripoli-Homs Railway concession includes the construction of a very small harbour, sufficient to give shelter to boats and lighters, at El Mina, the maritime quarter of Tripoli, and the building of a port at Djibana, a few miles to the north of Hodeida, forms part of the Hodeida-Sana a Railway concession.

A spacious harbour and quays are to be constructed by the Hedjaz Railway administration at Haifa, the sea terminus of the Hedjaz line.

Government surveys are being made at the roadsteads of Samsoun, Ineboli, Dedeaghatch, at Tripoli in Barbary and Benghazi.

Irrigation Works.

Under the Ministerial decree for granting preliminary contracts for public works the department has been able to conclude a preliminary convention with the Anatolian Railway Company for the irrigation of the Adana Plain. The area of land which will be brought under cultivation by using the waters of the Djeyhoun, Tarsus, and Adana Rivers is estimated at from 500,000 to 600,000 hectares. All the necessary surveys were to be terminated within five months from the date of the contract which was signed in November last. A similar contract has been entered into with the National Bank of Turkey for the irrigation of the Meander Valley, in the Smyrna province. The area is estimated at from 350,000 to 400,000 hectares.

Preliminary contracts have also been secured by Sir John Jackson (Limited) for work in Mesopotamia connected with the new Hindieh barrage, the Saklawieh Canal, and the Habbaniya Escape.

The Régie générale des Chemins de Fer are engaged in conducting studies and surveys for utilising the waters of the Lake of Scutari in Albania and those of the Boyana River for irrigation purposes, and are also examining the question of regulating the course of the Drin and Kiri Rivers with a view to prevent inundations. This company has also the following irrigation schemes in hand:—

	Hectares.
Serres	150,000
Vardar River	400,000
Maritza River	350,000

The Société générale d'Entreprises dans l'Empire ottoman, besides having undertaken the construction of roads, have signed preliminary contracts for the irrigation of the—

	Hectares.
Kafra and Tcharshamba Valleys (Samsoun)	80,000
Kazova Plain (Tokat)	4,000
Gediz Valley (Smyrna)	90,000
Orontes River Valley (Antioch)	30,000

Electric Light and Traction.

Constantinople.

The concession for lighting the city with electricity and the distribution of energy has been granted to the Austrian firm of Ganz and Co., but a group, composed of the Société havraise d'Énergie électrique, the Société d'Application industrielle, of Paris, Banque suisse de Chemins de Fer, and Giros et Loucheur, has joined the Austrian firm and will have an interest in the enterprise.

The electrification of the existing tramway system has been authorised, and the company, which is to-day entirely in the hands of a German group, will carry out the work during the course of the year.

A scheme has been put forward by the Ministry for the construction of electric tramway systems on the European and Asiatic sides of the Bosphorus up to the entrance of the Black Sea. Tenders have been invited.

Tenders have been asked for the electric lighting of Jerusalem, Tarsus, Mersina, Adana, and Adrianople, and to supply those towns with electric tramways.

Ottoman Army

In a year marked by much military progress and many innovations, perhaps the most important feature, as it may have far-reaching consequences, has been the incorporation of Christians in the Turkish Army. The law extending the obligations of military service to the non-Moslem races, which had been sanctioned by the Chamber in 1909, was put in force this year, and its application was made retrospective to embrace the years which had provided the Moslem soldiers of the last three classes of the "Ihtiyat" (active reserve). Thus six classes of Christians and other non-Moslems became immediately liable to military service, viz., those of the years 1299 to 1304 inclusive. The produce of these six classes was estimated at 230,000 men and as their Mussulman contemporaries were now serving, or had already served with the colours, it was proposed to call them out in turn for a period of instruction before

passing them into their corresponding reserve classes, thereby enabling them to take their places as trained troops when required on mobilisation. The application of this law, which had been welcomed in principle by the Christians as well as by the Young Turks, was the occasion of much controversy and some recrimination, the various heads of the non-Moslem communities demanding assurances that there should be no attempts at conversion during the period of colour service, and formulating other conditions which showed the innate distrust of the Turk in the minds of their Christian fellow-subjects.

The Ecumenical Patriarch, on behalf of the Greeks, demanded the formation of separate companies for the Christian soldiers and that they should not be obliged to occupy the same barrack-rooms as their Moslem comrades. These and similar demands were considered by the military authorities to be absolutely inadmissible. Another contention was the admission of Christians to the military schools on the same footing as Turks, with a view to becoming officers. This in principle conceded, but no steps have been taken towards complying with it.

That the intention of the Government was to give the experiment a fair trial and to treat the Christian soldiers with any leniency short of the fact that, when they were first enrolled stringent orders were issued to officers and special precautions were taken to ensure them a good reception by the Moslem soldiers. There has undoubtedly been a tendency to revert to the more normal lines of orderlies, cooks, officers' servants, &c., but on the whole it may be said that the Christians distributed for the army for training during the year have not, except in exceptional cases, had much cause for complaint. However it may be doubted whether the experiment has proved a success, inter reports tending to show that the dislike of the Turks to the service of Christians on equality with themselves is too strong to be easily overcome, and that the officers have ceased to interest themselves to the same extent as at first in the welfare of the new Christian recruits. But the opposition does not come from the Moslems alone, and the Christians, now that it has come to the point show themselves on their side unwilling to accept, and try by every species of evasion emigration, especially from the Greek islands and coast towns, with the object of avoiding service, to have become a considerable scale.

Early in the year the classes of 1299 and 1300 were called and distributed among regular battalions. These men were kept to their arms about two months, and were dismissed in November. But even in these two classes the application of the law was only partial, and was confined to the larger towns and centres of population, chiefly to the European districts. The orders for enrolment in their parts of the Empire produced very little result, for the whole vilayet of Mosul only produced 270 men of these classes, and the total number that received training and instruction probably does not exceed 17,000 whereas the effective estimate for each year's contingent is from 50,000 to 55,000. It is intended to call out the classes of 1301, 1302, and 1303 for a short period in 1911, while that of 1304 was enrolled in October with the recruit classes of 1305 for three years' colour service. The classes of 1301-5 will therefore be the first Christian soldiers to go the full term of colour service before entering the reserve classes.

The fall of Hadi Pasha's Cabinet early in the year and the ensuing change of Government was of importance to the army in that Mahmoud Shevket Pasha entered the new Cabinet as Minister of War and it is largely owing to his forceful personality and untiring energy that the year has been one of progress in every direction for the Turkish army. The policy of increasing many other mischievous reforms to the exigencies of a renovated army and navy is the subject of much criticism, especially on financial grounds, and it is asked why these expenses cannot be curtailed and more money devoted to productive expenditure. The answer of those who direct Turkey's military policy—a policy which is accepted by every army officer—is that their case is analogous to that of Prussia who, after the disasters of 1806 realised that her first and most essential need was an army strong enough to defend her from any foreign aggression or interference, and whose work of economic development did not begin until she had, by every species of self-sacrifice, provided herself with such an army. This idea is at the root of the various struggles during the year between the Ministers of War and Finance and it is probably the support derived from its widespread acceptance that has enabled Mahmoud Shevket Pasha to override opposition and obtain all the credits he wanted.

But more than money is needed for an army, and a thoroughly good system of training and instruction has been instituted, which, combined with the spirit of keenness displayed by all ranks, has so far given excellent results, and even better

promise for the future when there will have been time to realise the benefits of the various new institutions. This system bears a strong German impress, which is only natural as, in addition to the German officers imported to supervise the training of the Turkish army, all the best Turkish officers, including the Minister of War and the Chief of the General Staff, have received a German military education, and are therefore thoroughly imbued with German ideas.

The improvement in training and military efficiency noted last year has extended throughout the first four ordus, in each of which a staff of German officers has been established. In the Ist and IInd Ordus all troops except those which took part in the Albanian expedition have done continual drill exercises, and field days, leading up to an organised series of divisional and inter-divisional manœuvres as a prelude to the grand manœuvres which took place in October. In the IIIrd Ordu training was much interfered with by the Albanian insurrection and the disarmament at Macedonia, which occupied the bulk of the troops. The IVth Ordu labours under peculiar disabilities owing to the requirements of the Persian frontier and to the necessity of keeping detachments scattered over a large extent of country with poor communications for the preservation of internal order and the repression of unruly Kurdish tribes. So that, in the IIIrd and IVth Ordus though the system of training and instruction is inaugurated and supervised by the German officers as exactly the same as in the Ist and IInd Ordus its application there has only been very partial this year. In the VIth Ordu, Nazim Pasha has endeavoured to overcome the difficulties arising from very weak effectives and from the large number of scattered detachments and has inaugurated a policy of concentration for the purposes of training, in which some progress is already observable.

In the VIth Ordu alone practically nothing seems to have been done, and the latter half of the year was entirely taken up by the Hauran expedition.

Probably for the first time in its history the Turkish army held grand manœuvres, on a large scale, at the culminating point of the year's training. These manœuvres had also a marked political significance and were attended by great pomp and circumstance the importance attached to them being emphasised by the presence of the Sultan at the grand review with which they terminated. Though the presence of General von der Goltz Pasha, the chief instructor to the forces in Asia, and of the chief must be accorded to the Turkish directing staff which even the German critical do not minimise. The arrangements for transport and commissariat, though adequate, were rather rough, and served to emphasise the excellent qualities of the Turkish soldier in *rebus arduis*.

Although the commanders did not seem equal to their tasks, although many details might fairly be subjected to adverse criticism, the impression left on the whole was a very good one, and there is little but praise to be bestowed on the bearing and performance of the troops. The spirit of the service has been pressed on the Turkish army and is permissible to doubt whether it subsists to a similar extent in the German army. Certainly during the manœuvres referred to, adherence to orders without sufficient knowledge of discriminating between circumstances when disobedience might not be apparent, and under circumstances which in real war would almost certainly have led to disaster. The number of the troops taking part in these manœuvres had to be reduced owing to the outbreak of cholera in Constantinople in the previous month, but there were 71 battalions and 28 squadrons which actually took part, and the forces included 160 field guns. Though the official number is 70,000, the real number did not probably exceed 46,000, and even to arrive at these some calls had to be made upon units which were not taking part. Among the deficiencies thus brought to light was the shortage in horses which is at present a serious one.

A marked feature of the system borrowed from Germany by the Turks is the reliance placed upon schools, courses, and classes of instruction to serve as a basis of practical training. The following are some of the institutions started in 1910:—"Model regiments" of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, one in each of the first four ordus. Each of these is commanded by a German officer, each is kept at full peace strength, and officers and men from other units are attached to it for short periods. "Officers' application schools," one in each of the first four ordus. These are more in the nature of practice camps, in which the officers under instruction do the work of, and are treated as, private soldiers. This course of practical training lasts about three months and it is intended in future to make all cadets attend one, on passing out of the military schools, before taking their places as officers in regiments. "Non-commissioned officers schools." These have been started with the idea of providing a permanent cadre of non commissioned officers. Young men enter direct from civil

life and after a course in a preliminary school of from one to three years, according to age and acquirements, pass on to a finishing school for a further period of two years, after which they enter the army as non-commissioned officers, and must serve at least six years as such while re-engagement will be permitted up to twelve years. So far these schools have only been instituted in the three European ordus. The reduction, after the constitution, of the period of colour service to three years, has made the provision of non-commissioned officers of longer service a necessity. Pending the provision of men trained on the above lines, a practical training school for non-commissioned officers has been temporarily established in the form of a model battalion, where non-commissioned officers are received from their own units and returned after a course lasting about a year.

A "school of gunnery" is being started near Constantinople, under the auspices of a German officer, but has not yet been opened.

"Reserve officers' school" to provide a cadre of reserve officers in time of war. For young men who do not desire to enter the army as officers and who cannot claim exemption from military service under the provisions of the Recruiting Law. They may, on passing the final examinations of the secondary schools, enter this school for one year, after which they are attached to regular units for annual periods of eight weeks in the four succeeding years, as non-commissioned officers, and, providing they pass the respective annual tests, they are then classed as "officers de reserve." The mission of officers to Germany for a period of regimental work there has continued, and a few have also been sent to France. The total number of Turkish officers now studying in the former country is about fifty.

Another gratifying feature of the year, from a military point of view, has been the number of reservists called out for training or for service. Though by law the redif classes should be frequently called under arms for instruction, this law has been a dead-letter for years. In 1910, early in the year, some 30,000 redifs from various battalions were called up and distributed among regular units for a month's training. In April and May the 11th Redif Division and the Samsun Reserve Brigade, twenty-four battalions, were called out for service in Albania, and were not entirely dismissed and sent home till November. In August the Smyrna Reserve Brigade and two regiments from Syria were embodied for service in the Hauran. Nine battalions from Trebizond were also embodied for this expedition, but were dismissed before embarkation on account of the cholera. Thus during the year about 32,000 redifs were on active service, about 30,000 received instruction, about 7,000 were embodied, but dismissed immediately.

In 1911 the training of the redif classes will probably receive a further extension, and it is hoped that 150,000 of them will be instructed at various times.

A very important change in the Turkish idea of the conduct of a war in Europe has been marked by the dismantling of the famous Chatalja lines, the guns from which have been mostly transferred to Adrianople. The latter place is being turned into a fortified camp which an enemy advancing from the Balkans could not ignore, and which could not be masked by any ordinary force. The *enceinte* has been extended, many of the old permanent forts dismantled, and a large number of field and case-mate permanent works or emplacements for movable armament, &c., constructed. The strength of the fortress artillery has been raised, and it has been redistributed, to each regiment being allotted a section of the defences, the organisation of the regiment being adapted to the works and armament of its section. At the end of the year there were about 320 guns, including field-pieces, on the perimeter.

The work of turning Yanina into a similar entrenched camp on the Greek frontier has also been begun, about 70 of the guns from Chatalja having been transported to that place.

In connection with the plan of campaign, of which the fortification of Adrianople is the key, concessions have been granted for railways:—

(*a*) From Baba Eski to Kirk Kisse, 40 kilom.
(*b*) From Soma to Panderma, 190 kilom.

The former links an important military centre to the main line, while the latter will greatly increase the facilities for transporting Anatolian redifs into Europe. Another railway concession of military importance which has been given us for a line of 102 kilom. from Homs to Tripoli.

In spite of the inclusion for the first time of the non-Moslem elements in the army, the latter has usually been much below its proper peace strength during 1910. There is, no doubt, that this has been a means adopted by the Minister of War to

effect economies in his budget, so that money might be found for the purchase of matériel and for some of the many new institutions and reforms. Further, men are no longer kept under arms indefinitely after the expiration of their legal term of colour service and are, as a rule, dismissed and paid, with commendable punctuality. So that in October the bulk of the men who had completed their third year of service were dismissed as usual, but the calling up of the recruits, who would nominally have replaced them at that time, was partially suspended on account of the cholera, so that at the end of the year there were not more than 200,000 men under arms.

For the purchase of military matériel of all sorts, as well as for the payment of guns, &c., which had been ordered before, an extraordinary credit of £T 5,250,000 was granted to the Minister of War, to be spread over a period of three years. There does not appear to be any provision of revenue to cover this extraordinary expenditure.

The year has been marked by two expeditions on a large scale and of more than usual importance, one in Albania, the other in the Hauran. In both cases the idea underlying the action of the Government seems to have been the determination to extend their authority over regions which have hitherto enjoyed practical autonomy with nominal subjection to make that subjection real, and to apply to those semi-independent peoples the same laws regarding conscription and census as obtain in the more settled districts. With this idea, advantage was taken of outbreaks which would formerly have passed almost unheeded to assert the authority of the central Government, though it needed expeditions on a considerable scale to do so. One must admire the determination with which these expeditions have been carried through, in spite of evil prognostications and openly expressed criticism, when things were going wrong, of the policy which led to them.

Remarks on the Present Condition of the Ottoman Navy.

1. *Administration and Reorganisation.*

The progress in reorganisation of the Turkish navy as a whole is not apparent at present, but the next two years will undoubtedly show results of the efforts of the British officers under Rear-Admiral Williams who succeeded Sir D. Gamble in May, to reform this department.

Good progress has been made with the fleet in so far as sea keeping is concerned, but the reform of the departments to effect repairs, supply ammunition, entry of personnel, &c., has yet to be shown.

The Minister of Marine is the sole source of motive power, if he is absent, decisions on all questions are in abeyance. Every trifling matter is dealt with by him personally, he may be seen almost daily testing the ration of bread, criticising a contract boot or interviewing agents for goods of all descriptions, whilst literally sacks of correspondence remain undealt with.

As the tenure of Ministers of Marine during the past two years has averaged two and a-half months each arrival formulating a new policy, no real progress has been made.

Questions of policy are usually in the first instance referred to commissions of officers selected from all branches of the service, these commissions spend long hours in unprofitable discussions and rarely come to an unanimous agreement, except under pressure from the Minister, the reports of which they finally become unburdened are of singular obscurity, the needs of the situation being vaguely sketched with no regard to financial considerations, consequently they are of no value for practical purposes.

In all important matters such as the purchase from Germany of battle-ships and destroyers the decision arrived at was taken without reference to the commission appointed to discuss this question, and, as far as the battle-ships were concerned, in direct opposition to the opinion of the naval authorities.

2. *Personnel.*

Officers.—During the last two years some progress has been made towards correcting the more glaring deficiencies of the cadre of the officers' corps. Much, however, remains to be done.

The difficulties are many, and may be appreciated when it is stated that in

March 1909 the total personnel of the navy was approximately: Officers, 5,000; seamen, 2,400

During the past decade nominations for entry into the naval school had been in the gift of favoured palace officials, and consequently cadets from all grades of society were entered in numbers far in excess of the requirements of the fleet. The school therefore became a species of charity institution.

Promotion was also in the gift of favoured officials, and, since no activity was permitted in the fleet, ambitious officers devoted their whole energies to ingratiating themselves with the pashas. The result has been that the higher ranks are impassibly blocked by persons who are officers only to the extent of drawing pay and wearing uniform. They have no knowledge of their duties and no experience. They are absolutely useless for any naval purpose whatever.

In the year 1908 the petty officers of the navy mutinied in a body, marched to Yildiz, and demanded officer's rank from the then Sultan. He granted their demand. Thus the lower ranks became clogged by an influx of some 400 men, mostly illiterate and ignorant, and quite incapable of ever acquiring sufficient knowledge to enable them to perform the duties of an officer.

Upon the accession of the present Sultan efforts were made to clear the cadre. The blind, the bed-ridden, and the more obviously unfit were pensioned off, though in most cases they protested vigorously; but this clearance affected only some 250. Strong measures were necessary, and the entry of cadets into the naval school was stopped and still remains in abeyance.

The naval budget is now burdened with a large annual charge for the pay and rations of a body of officers from whom no return in the way of work can be exacted.

Sufficient officers, amongst whom the elders have mostly had sea experience in ships of the Mahsousse Company are available for the requirements of the fleet.

If the cadre can be cleared, and a reasonable flow of promotion secured, there is no reason that the officers should not become efficient.

Seamen.—Until recently these men were, from some inscrutable reason, selected exclusively from the conscripts from inland provinces. This system is in process of alteration; but nothing regular has yet been established.

Recruits are sent periodically from the Ministry of War and are absorbed by the fleet and naval establishments. In the former they are told off indiscriminately for seamen and stokers as required. In the latter case they become servants or labourers.

Since the recruits are to the extent of 95 per cent. illiterate, great difficulty has been experienced in finding men suitable for the rating of signalman, gunlayer, &c. A petty officer's school is about to be established to provide the education necessary for these ratings.

The physique of the men is generally good, but they lack stamina.

Their discipline is good, and orders are obeyed with alacrity and an evident desire to serve.

The exact number of seamen in the navy is difficult to arrive at, but 5,000 may be taken as an approximate figure.

3. *Material.*

The arsenal at Kassim Pasha is in a poor condition, and large sums of money must be expended upon it before it can become efficient.

At present it is barely capable of coping with the repairs necessary for the upkeep of the active fleet. Damages sustained in action would have to be dealt with by outside firms.

The machine shops are equipped with machines of antiquated types which could be rendered serviceable, but the buildings are in a state of dilapidation, and the surroundings are lumbered with rubbish and scrap.

The three graving docks are efficient, but the pumping plant is obsolete and slow. A contract for a new pumping plant has been made with an English firm but the installation has not yet commenced. The larger dock has recently been repaired, and work is proceeding on the others.

Arsenals, so-called for budgetary purposes, exist at Ismid, Kamaran, and Bussorah. They possess no facilities for effecting repairs. That at Ismid consists only of a walled-in space enclosing a few empty workshops.

The naval magazine is situated on the hill behind Kassim Pasha. It is not suitable for the storage of ammunition. Pack horses are the only means of transport.

A site for a new naval magazine is about to be selected, but the necessary money for its construction has not yet been entered in the budget.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference F.O.424/250

FOLIOS 46 – 53 ARE MISSING.

extent of swallowing an insult to their consul from the vali, and have without doubt succeeded in inserting the thin end of the wedge.

The Bagdad Railway advances slowly; it has almost reached the foot of the Taurus Mountains, where the tunnelling has begun, and the earthworks and culverts are visible, winding across the plains from Kizil Bacri and round Adana as far as Missis.

Nearly all the available concessions go to German subjects. They have an extensive irrigation scheme, including the canalisation of the Seihun and Cydrums Rivers, and the cotton cultivation is being steadily carried on by the Deutsche Baumwolle Gesellschaft. English commercial houses and concession hunters are conspicuous by their absence, and the Christian element look with confidence to the numerous young Germans who are continually arriving in connection with the railway works, &c.—many of them reserve officers, or "Unteroffiziere," and all of them armed—for protection in case of any future disturbances.

Syria.

Damascus.

At Damascus the bright prospects in view at the end of 1909 have been sadly belied. The reform commissioners, it is true, made some good changes, in spite of the lack of funds, and some attempts at road repairing, on the other hand, the committee's foreign policy and tactless want of consideration for the feelings of the Arabs, engrained as they are by centuries of a different kind of administration, greatly tended to produce a strong antagonism towards the new régime. The vali, Ismail Faz. Pasha, was typical of the new régime, both proud and overbearing in his dealings with the natives, and he adopted a marked anti-capitulative attitude in his relations with the foreign consuls. He is said to have refused to allow Arab schools to be opened unless Turkish is the only language taught, and Turkish has been imposed exclusively as the official language—in fact, many of the new officials do not even know Arabic. Under these circumstances it is hardly surprising that the end of the year 1910 increased instead of diminishing the difficulties of the Young Turks, and forced the central Government to recall the vali (13th December, 1910). His recall (13th December) is not to be regretted, but, though most unpopular and uncompromising in his attitude to all parties, he was a strong man, and it is to be feared that his successor, Fathi Pasha, though much more amenable and a more pliable tool in the hands of the Committee of Union and Progress, may, in spite of his very good intentions, find it difficult to cope with the almost insurmountable difficulties which surround him.

At Damascus itself the Arabs do not conceal their detestation of the new order of things, and a distinctly anti-European atmosphere prevails, provoked no doubt by a mistaken interpretation of the vali's policy, and the opening of 1911 finds the revolt in the Hauran still incompletely suppressed and armed Bedouins and Arabs wantonly attacking and destroying the Hedjaz Railway and murdering the Young Turkish officials. Had the Committee of Union and Progress only had patience and adopted a policy of gradual reform, they would have saved the thousands of pounds and the many human lives which their steam-roller policy is costing them in the Hauran and at Kerak. The money thus lost might have been spent on road-making, education, and other most necessary reforms which would have gained them the hearts of a population, now apparently bitterly disappointed and driven into a useless struggle which can be of no benefit to either side.

The Hauran.

Already in July a certain unrest began to be felt, notably in the Hauran, but a little gentle dealing and tact was all that was required to calm the effervescence. Instead of which an intentionally provocative bombardment of the culpable villages was undertaken. It was only a question of a local blood feud, which could probably have been easily settled by a just arbitration. Instead, the pretext was seized to apply the steam-roller, and over thirty battalions were prepared to crush the Druses, who were then to be treated to a drastic disarmament as had been done in Albania. It was further hoped that the punishment of the Druses would serve to cow the whole of Syria and Palestine, who were, so to speak, the next stones to be crushed by the committee roller, but the Committee of Union and Progress did not realise the difficulties in front of them.

The one redeeming feature, perhaps, was the appointment of Sami Pasha to command the expeditionary force. Although of course, he was obliged to carry out the orders he had received, he appears on the whole to have acted with humanity and tact, and to have conducted himself as a good soldier.

On his arrival in September there was still a very good chance of a compromise, and there is still no doubt that the Druses would have gladly seized any opening to come to terms, but the Committee of Union and Progress insisted on their unconditionally handing over their arms. This they naturally refused to do, so long as a like treatment was not meted out to the Hereditary enemies the Bedouins, and, seeing little prospect of success, they began to send away their wives and children. At the very last they would have submitted if only adequate protection against the Bedouins had been assured them and guaranteed to them by a foreign Power, and overtures with a view to British intervention were actually made to His Majesty's consul at Damascus. Mr. Devey was, however, instructed to hold no communications with the Druse agents, the chief of whom, Yahia Bey Atrash, then went to visit Sami Pasha at Kerak. The latter, however would not listen to Yahia Bey's proposals for a compromise, but caused him to be arrested, and ordered troops to proceed against his adherents.

All hope of a peaceful settlement was now at an end, and the Druses retreated into the hill country to the north of the Hauran. Martial law was proclaimed, and the difficulties of the troops were somewhat lessened by the Bedouins assuming provisionally an attitude of neutrality and expectancy.

On the 6th October the Turkish troops entered Sweidah and the feelings of the Druses were further embittered by the alleged mishandling of their women. A somewhat serious reverse was then suffered by a detachment of the expeditionary forces, the Druses capturing two Maxims, while the Turkish loss was officially estimated at 100 men. From Sweidah Sami Pasha moved north to Shahba, and the Bedouins, encouraged by the Druses' all-too-much-advertised success, joined the main body of the rebels, raising their number to over 10,000. A successful struggle was then expected, but Sami Pasha frequently assumed a conciliatory and compromising attitude, and two days after Sweidah entered Shahba with little resistance, and commenced to take measures to pacify the surrounding district. Encouraged by the just administration and tact of the general, the Druses who had taken refuge in the Leja, began to come in, and now disarmament, but peacefully, disarmament was begun.

Without much evidence the collection of the Druse recruits was started, and on the 8th November the first batch of 250 arrived at Damascus. The young Druses were spoken of as a new strain, and told of their brotherhood with their Turkish brethren who would welcome them in barracks with open arms, but much bitter feeling existed, the Druse mothers even begging that their sons might be killed rather than exposed to the dangers of a Turkish barrack. However matters having quieted down, at any rate on the surface, though the Druses cannot be said to be conquered the mountainous parts of the country having been scarcely touched by the Turkish troops, it was thought safe to deal with the more turbulent elements in true Committee style, and the secret courts-martial were busy at Sweidah and Kunaitra.

Kerak.

The withdrawal of the troops who were being drafted to Haifa had begun *en route* for Palestine when, as was to be "disarmed," in a similar manner, when an unlooked-for outbreak occurred among the Arabs at Kerak near the Dead Sea. On the 15th December the Hedjaz line was cut at Catranch by a large force of Bedouins, incensed at the endeavour to gather recruits, and all available Turkish officials were murdered, except those who managed to reach the fortress, which was at once invested by the insurgents. Again indirect overtures were made, this time through an American traveller who was asked to convey a message from the local chiefs to His Majesty's consul at Jerusalem to try and obtain British intervention. The withdrawn troops were hurriedly summoned back, and it was only on the 20th December that the garrison of Kerak was able to be relieved.

Beirout and the Lebanon.

The year opened favourably at Beirout. The committee of reorganisation initiated a policy of useful reforms in the judicial department and as regards the police and

gendarmerie. A considerable sum was set aside for the construction of communal roads, and the vali's administration was for a time very satisfactory though hampered by the local Committee of Union and Progress, whose confidence he did not seem to enjoy. The Young Turk policy of creating as many difficulties as possible for foreigners in matters of landed property, &c., was fast fully followed, but the immigration of Jews, notably at Haifa for Palestine, still continued. The administrations of Haifa, Sidon, and Tripoli are still carried on in the old style and are not satisfactory, and in May the general state of Syria could not be called good. The feeling against Europeans, always bad in certain fanatical towns, was exemplified by an unwarranted attack on two English gentlemen at Kanzatch, and the unpopularity of the constitution with the native Ottomans was not confined to the Lebanon.

But, on the whole, a certain pro-British feeling still existed, and the visit of Prince Adel Fritz in the early spring did not seriously affect this, as the local officials expected more pomp, and a more open show of support and sympathy than His Imperial Highness appears to have even need.

As the year drew on it became evident that no progress was being made in the vilayet by the new régime towards solving the question of reconciling the opposing racial elements, and that the practical results of the reforms carried out had not come up to expectation. The administration was weak, though the gendarmerie and army reorganisation proceeded here, as elsewhere, slowly but surely.

In July a great sensation was caused by the murder of a prominent German resident at Haifa, but the German Embassy, pursuing their policy of ingratiation with the Committee of Union and Progress, did not see fit to take any violent measures of redress, and consequently the principal culprits were able to escape from the country.

In October the Committee of Union and Progress managed to replace the vali by a Young Turk official of whom high hopes are entertained and he seems a cautious and sensible man, so that at the end of the year the outlook is not a bad one.

The Lebanon.

At the end of 1909 relations were somewhat strained between the Governor-General and the Administrative Council of the Lebanon owing to his Excellency's refusing to accept the council's decisions except in money matters, and the application of the new "commanderie" press laws met with serious opposition. His Excellency and British Ambassadors, in acting opposite to instructed the respective consuls general to lay down the principle that all laws passed by the Ottoman Parliament should be applicable to the Lebanon except those contravening the "reglement." Complaints addressed to His Majesty's Embassy in regard to encroachments on Lebanese autonomy proved incorrect. The Lebanese had refused to send deputies to the Ottoman Chamber, and no feasible attempt had been made to infringe their privileges. The Ottoman Government would certainly oppose the opening of the Lebanon ports and, as regards conscription the Lebanese objections were great as, though they were exempted from military service under the Hamidian recruiting laws of 1886, the "reglement" itself places no veto on conscription.

The question of the opening of the Lebanon ports was also discussed by the French and British Ambassadors and the following conclusions arrived at and subsequently approved by the Foreign Office (30th April): (1) The right of steamers to call seemed right and reasonable, and might be supported unofficially. (2) Incontestably the Ottoman Government had the right to send a warship to those ports (as had been recently done when some attempts by foreign ships had been made to use them). On the other hand the Ottoman Council of Ministers decided to maintain the prohibition, on the ground that the protocol of the Lebanon does not clearly state that the Lebanese have the right to open a port.

In view of the complexity of the petitions addressed to the British and French Embassies, often for personal reasons or interests, the petitioners were told in future to address themselves to the consulates at Beirout.

In June the recalcitrant councillors assumed an independent attitude bordering on hostility towards the Governor-General, and the disappointed officials and editors, angered by the new press laws, made his Excellency the object of virulent attacks.

The finances of the Lebanon appear to be in no very satisfactory condition, and the budget for the year was dexterously composed to conceal that fact.

The Yemen and Assyr.

As a result of inactivity against Seyyid Idriss, of Assyr, in the early part of 1910, his power has been increasing during the year, although the expedition against him last spring was officially declared to have been successful.

Meanwhile, the Imam Yahya made certain proposals to the sixth Government for the administration of the Yemen and assumed an attitude of expectancy. Though the Arabs may at first have greeted the constitution favourably, it soon became evident to them that it was of no benefit to them. The smaller officials and Government of the Yemen remained much the same as in Abdul Hamid's days, and there were constant fights between the Arabs and the Turkish tax-collectors. The "Turkifying" policy of the committee soon produced its effect on the Arabs who, with the advent of "liberty," had hoped for decentralisation and not repression and "Turkification," while the laxity of the committee officials in religious observances soon disgusted them, and the cry was raised that the binding link of the Caliphate had snapped and that the question had now resolved itself into a struggle between the race of the Prophet, *i.e.*, the Arab, against the Turk.

The committee press endeavoured to hide their discomfiture by attributing this movement to British machinations, and their correspondents in the Yemen began to write that the Arabs were beginning to favour an Arab Caliphate under Egyptian suzerainty and to allege that the Khedive was actively engaged in the furtherance of this policy.

The Imam Yahya was still waiting his chance in the mountains. The Turks had put no satisfactory answer to his demands and Seyyid Idriss, his rival, was getting stronger and stronger in Assyr. It was apparently the committee's policy to apply the principle of *divide et impera* and play off Idriss against the Imam whom they bracketed with the Ashraf, whose religious chief is the Aga Khan, and accused of pro-British tendencies. The Imam, however, did not fall into the trap, and throughout the autumn, by intimidation and every other means, collected a large force. It is also supposed that he came to a secret understanding with Seyyid Idriss whose adherents were flocking to his standard in Assyr, to bring out a simultaneous rising against the Turks who were described by him as the Nasara (Christians).

Matters were precipitated in the case of Idriss by the arrest of some of his principal sheikhs on account of Idriss's refusal to hand over the taxes he had collected to the Turks. On the 15th November, Idriss invested the town, and his lieutenants began fighting against the Turks, and on the 15th December His Majesty's Consul at Hodeidah reports that he intended rising of the Imam in the Yemen and of Seyyid Idriss in Assyr was about to take place.

The Hedjaz.

The condition of affairs in the Hedjaz differs little from that under the old régime except that the pilgrims suffer excessive extortion. The secret treaties still secretly carried on by the local newspapers, called into existence last year, have died a natural death. The Syrian soldiers have improved in appearance, but the officers are more arrogant. There were wage increases on the Railway during the year, but no money was forthcoming to pay the Bedouin, and, as usual, petty corruption was rife among the smaller officials.

Everywhere, elsewhere, discontent at the committee's innovations grew into alarming proportions during the year and culminated in December by the attack on the Hedjaz Railway at Kerak by the Beni Sakr tribes, as already mentioned.

Kurdistan.

After the constitution there had been a marked rapprochement between Kurds and Armenians, but the committee prefer that there should be a division between the two races. Hence, during the course of the year, the Government abandoned their originally announced intention of restoring the stolen Armenian lands to their rightful owners, and the principle was laid down that no Armenian claims for property stolen prior to 1909 would be considered. For the settlement of all other claims, the Armenians were referred to the local courts, where they could expect but little justice. In other words, no adequate steps were taken to reinstate them, and the committee's

promise appears now to have resolved itself into the sentiment that it would be wrong to dispossess the Kurdish usurpers.

In the early part of the year the committee, not yet being prepared to apply its levelling policy to Kurdistan, began to fear that considerable trouble might arise among the Kurds, owing to the hostile influence of the chiefs—notably of those who had fled across the Persian frontier and were suspected of organising a rising with a view to enabling them to resume their former predatory haunts. In the end it was thought well to honour the Kurds, and the Vali of Bitlis lost his appointment, in deference to Kurdish sentiments, and was replaced by Tahir Pasha—a weak and incompetent man who practically played the Kurds' game. Meanwhile, the Vali and Mushir of Erzerum were at open variance, as the latter opposed any repressive measures whatever against the Kurds, and the notorious Musa Bey was allowed to carry on his depredations in the Musch plain unopposed.

In fact Van, through the local feeling against the Committee of Union and Progress, appears to be the only place where any attempt against the Kurds was made, and that on a miserable fiasco, as the expedition sold the Government rifles and ammunition to the tribesmen they were sent to punish.

The policy of the committee, alarmed at the prospect of a Kurdish revolt, may be divided into two heads. First of all they exerted themselves to get the Kurdish refugees back, and in order to gain the help of the Armenians, they formed a secret alliance with the Dashnagtsagan Armenian revolutionary society, so that while posing as the upholders of Islam with the Kurds, they were secretly supporting the anti-religious and anarchical principles of the Armenian revolutionaries. Their policy appears so far, to have met with success, as the two points of union between the Armenian and Kurd, as far as their mutual interests are concerned, are—for opposing reasons—of the new régime and its methods.

Instances of the local administration are the failure to build roads and the attempt to "Turkify" the Armenian schools by subordinating them to the Turkish Director of Public Instruction.

In October, the weakness and indecision of Tahir Pasha at Bitlis, forced the committee to transfer him to Mosul, where he was succeeded by a young officer, Ismail Hakki Bey, who, as Mutessarif of Ipek, had led the Albanian campaign. His Excellency did not lose scope to deal with Kurdistan in a similar manner, and seem to be able to follow the committee's favourite policy of "Travelling." Anyway, his first step was to endeavour to enforce new arms laws in a manner to end the independence of the Kurdish chiefs, and his most recent victory was over the Kurds by compelling the two great Beys of Bitlis, Tahir Pasha the head of an armed force of 5,000 to 6,000 tribesmen, a force which might be employed for aggression on the Persian frontier.

Mosul.

In order not to come into conflict with the French, who are unofficially supporting the Catholic Chaldean Patriarch, the adoption of the principle of non-interference in the dispute between the Nestorians, who have severed all other religious connection with the Patriarch, was practised by His Majesty's Government at the end of 1909, and approved by Foreign Office despatch of the 3rd February, 1909, but on the 24th February the seceding Nestorian bishop, Mar Elias, arrived at Mosul, and took up his residence with the first dragoman of the British Vice-Consulate. Owing to pressure of Catholic influence, the local authorities decided to arrest and expel the bishop, and on the 4th February a force of gendarmes was sent without any notification to His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consulate to effect the bishop's private residence was unwarrantably violated, without however, catching Mar Elias, who some days later, escaped. The vali refused to make any excuses for the violation of the dragoman's domicile, and His Majesty's Embassy had to exact a tardy apology, and some measure of punishment for the guilty gendarmerie officer, from his Excellency by continual pressure at the Porte.

Efferescence in the Sporades and Samos.

The Sporades.—In April news reached the Foreign Office that the committee intended to abolish the privileges of the Sporades Islands on the grounds of the insufficiency of the firman of 1835, and that troops were to be sent from Rhodes to quell any opposition. In reply to an enquiry at the Porte, the Grand Vizier informed His Majesty's Embassy that a special commission would be sent to inquire into the

status of the islands, and that the inhabitants would not be overtaxed, but that they could not be exempted from military service. The policy of abolishing their privileges was then suspended and the troops recalled to Rhodes.

Samos.—The year has passed in a continual struggle between the Prince Governor, Kopassi Effendi, and the firebrand politicians in the Assembly, who enter into public life apparently only with the object of serving their own private interests by securing the best posts under Government and, if possible, monopolies of trade. They are mostly lawyers and doctors who have obtained their degrees in Athens and are full of the spirit of Hellenism. The Prince, on the other hand, refuses to become their accomplice, and is loyal to the Porte. Though he has often used the most drastic and almost illegal measures, he has certainly created order out of disorder and this task is one of a very peculiar difficulty, that were he to go and be succeeded by a weaker man, it is to be feared serious trouble would ensue, and the whole question of Samos would be reopened.

In view of the above, it is hardly to be wondered at that his unpopularity with the Samians has steadily increased during the year and in August he found himself in so different a position, owing to the opposition in the Assembly, that the Turkish Government despatched troops and torpedo-boats to keep order in the island. This was in contravention to the Turkish engagements with England, France, and Russia, and the Greek Minister in London protested. For various reasons however, the Turks have been continually allowed to exceed the lawful number of the garrison of the island, and on this occasion the agitation was directed entirely to personal animosity against the Prince, who stands as the Ottoman sovereignty. Consequently, the matter was not taken up by the three Powers, but in September the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that the extra troops would eventually be withdrawn. Meanwhile, however, the Prince employed unconstitutional methods to establish his authority. He arrested the legally elected deputies, and nominated fourteen of his own supporters in their stead, so gaining the majority in the Assembly.

Mesopotamia

Bagdad

Bagdad.—The new vali, Nazim Pasha, arrived at Bagdad, after much delay, in March, armed with special powers as both Governor-General and Ferik and accompanied by a large staff of officers, for all of which he had obtained special promotion. Being regarded by the Committee of Union and Progress Government who had appointed him to Bagdad and too inconveniently popular with the army to remain in Constantinople, it was believed that Nazim Pasha was given this post, with viceregal powers over all Mesopotamia, in order to get rid of him and in the hopes that he would ruin his reputation over the difficult task before him. His special instructions were to put down the prevailing disorder in Mesopotamia, to reorganise the administration, and to reform entirely the VIth Army Corps. Perhaps he was also directed to carry out a policy of "Turkey for the Turks" in these regions.

However that may be, Nazim Pasha had not been many months in office before complaints arose on every side of his impulsive and arbitrary conduct. Being short of funds, he first endeavoured to appropriate to his own uses the doles despatched to Bagdad intended to enable Sir W. Willcocks to carry on his irrigation works, and then entered into negotiations with the National Bank of Turkey for a municipal loan. Having no patience to await the conclusion of these negotiations, he next started carrying out an elaborate scheme of improving Bagdad city, which involved the broadening of streets, cutting of new roads and demolition of a considerable amount of valuable property. In order to avoid having to pay the legal compensation, he gave the pretext that buildings were in a dangerous condition and must be pulled down, and in executing these measures he entirely overrode the stipulations of the expropriation law. The value of land, in consequence of this policy diminished alarmingly, and claims for compensation were put in by natives and foreigners alike; the premises of Messrs. Lynch and other British subjects having suffered in particular from this treatment.

Apart from the question of economy, there appears to have been a deeper motive for the vali's action in his determination to strike a blow at British and, in a lesser degree, at all foreign prestige in Mesopotamia. In August, when the first demolitions took place, Nazim Pasha was preparing to cut a road, quite unnecessarily, right

through the grounds of the British residency, and it was only in consequence of the prompt and vigorous representations made by His Majesty's Embassy to the Sublime Porte that he desisted from this scheme, and pretended that he had never had any such intention. He had, meanwhile, demolished the walls and cut down trees of the German Club garden without giving due notice, and had got into dispute with the German, Austrian, Italian, and American consuls at Bagdad. In spite of the peculiarly trying position in which the vali's conduct placed him, His Majesty's consul general has managed to keep on friendly terms with him personally, but the vali has consistently refused to admit any interference on his part regarding the demolitions of British property, either at Bagdad or at Kazimain and Kerbela, where similar arbitrary acts occurred at the end of September, on the ground that foreign consuls have no status in regard to questions of immovable property; and the claims of the British subjects affected have accordingly been referred to Constantinople for settlement.

Nazim Pasha further proceeded to fix arbitrary prices for various commodities sold in Bagdad, such as grain, flour, and even ice, in the case of the latter, without any justification under the municipal regulations, and the losses which have resulted thereby to the British Indian merchants, Abdul Ali, who are the only ice merchants except the municipality in Bagdad, have formed the subject of another British claim against the Ottoman Government, meanwhile, presumably in consequence of instructions received, the vali has since October last refrained from endeavouring to enforce his measure upon them or to carry out his threat of closing their factory.

So successful was Nazim for a time in his methods of introducing constriction and anxiety into the land that several British Indian subjects went so far as to renounce their British nationality for Ottoman nationality, feeling that they could obtain no protection from Great Britain, at the same time, Nazim Pasha was not popular among his own people: pamphlets and articles began to appear against him in the press, he became involved in disputes with nearly all the members of the Ministry at Constantinople, the local Committee of Union and Progress cast him ruthlessly, and his position became more and more precarious. Finally, the Government sent unofficially to Bagdad the deputy for that city, Ismail Hakki Bey, to make enquiries into the vali's conduct, to report on the Montefik country and also to study the haunting question of British designs on Bussorah and the Persian Gulf regions.

Ismail Hakki's report was most damaging to the vali, whose proceedings were severely criticised, and it was equally imbued with pronouncedly Anglophobe sentiments as to the situation at Bussorah. Meanwhile, the vali had in November carried out further arbitrary demolitions of British property, and the Government, in despair of being able to keep him under any sort of control were at the end of the year seriously considering the advisability of his recall.

Mesopotamian Irrigation

The work which Sir William Willcocks in February proposed to begin at once consisted of

1. The repair of the old Hindieh barrage.
2. Construction of a new Hindieh barrage.
3. Construction of a regulator at the head of the Saklawieh Canal.
4. The opening up of an escape into the Habbaniah Lake near Rumadi.

The total cost of the work he calculates at from £T 700,000 to £T 800,000, of which only £T 161,000 have been granted for the current financial year, and even this grant he has had the utmost difficulty in obtaining the use of.

His further projects, which would require a sum of £T 2,000,000 to £T 3,000,000 next year, include—

1. A dam at Felujah.
2. Irrigation canals from the Euphrates.
3. A dam at Kut to feed the Hai Canal on the Tigris.

Though work was started in February, the failure of the Government to furnish Sir W. Willcocks with the funds granted have greatly impeded progress, and in July he was compelled to come to Constantinople himself in order to discuss matters with the central authorities, returning again in September. He had been attacked in some quarters for his failure to repair the old Hindieh barrage with a sum of money which

he declared was quite inadequate for this purpose for his constant changes of plan, and for what were considered to be his extravagant ideas, and the new Vali of Bagdad, Nazim Pasha, who was, perhaps, piqued at not having the irrigation works under his control, reported unfavourably on the scheme on his first arrival; the engineer, Mr Medhcott has, however, submitted to the Vali an elaborate memorandum on the work, which his Excellency seems to have accepted, and the opposition to Sir W. Wilcocks' what was partly engineered by a dismissed adviser locally and partly a result of the vali's attitude, has apparently died down when he returned to Bagdad to renew work in September with a promised grant of £T 100,000

Navigation of the Tigris and Euphrates

The question of the lease of the Lynch and Turkish Steam-ship Companies into an Ottoman company with a seventy-five years' navigation monopoly of the two rivers remained in abeyance pending the discussion in Parliament of the Concessions Law which was passed in the end of June

On Lynch's agent attempting to renew negotiations early in July he was informed in round that the Ottoman Government would not proceed any further with the business even on account of its monopolistic character, that they intended to open the navigation of the rivers only to Ottoman subjects, Messrs Lynch retaining their acquired rights, and that they would give no indemnity for any possible loss resulting to the latter on the rivers as a result of the irrigation works to be initiated. The latter might take place, however, without any loss to Ottoman or foreign participants similar to those to be granted to ordinary Ottoman subjects. Messrs Lynch preferred to retain their British character, and His Majesty's Embassy protested vigorously to the Sublime Porte against the concession given to a Turkish Company by the Vali of Baghdad to grant points of navigation to Ottoman subjects on the ground of the injury which would result to Messrs Lynch's interests from the increase of competition. The Ottoman Government however, maintained their right to grant such concessions. In October Messrs Lynch pressed His Majesty's Government to obtain from the Porte definite rules which they were ordered as regards the number of steamers they might traverse, and in particular requested that support might be given to their application for permission to run a large steamer of the Euphrates if necessary under the Ottoman flag. It was, however represented to them that the Ottoman Government were opposed to granting any further facilities to foreign company operating, and it was suggested that their best course would be to try and obtain permission to register themselves locally under the cover of some Ottoman subject's name.

Some activity was made evident at Bussorah by Messrs Lynch replacing those of their steamers which were sold to the Tigris, the "Blosse Lynch" by a new steamship, the "Blosse," on which the difficulty was removed, in consequence of the representations of His Majesty's Embassy and the "Blosse" was allowed to proceed to Bagdad, where she remained for some months, having temporarily replaced the "Possession" which the Ottomans refused to release for repairs. The permission granted to the latter to run a second steamer did not affect their previously accepted engagement not to run more than one steamer, but to lease or was required to fly the Ottoman flag. Eventually therefore the necessary instructions were sent to Bussorah to allow the "Blosse Lynch" to run.

Owing to the re-organisation of the Turkish steamboat service the congestion of cargo at Bussorah towards the end of October became formidable, and Messrs. Lynch have applied, most reasonably so far, to put a fourth steamer and extra barges on the Tigris so as to relieve the congestion, which affects British merchants more than any others.

Bussorah and Koweit

During March some fighting occurred in the vicinity of Nasriye and Shattra between the Muntefik Arabs and Turkish troops, in which the latter suffered some losses, the Turkish officer commanding, Yussuf Pasha, was recalled to Bagdad, however, and the vali's visit to these regions in July, during the course of which he secured the submission of the Arab sheikhs.

The vali Subri Bey Nazif, who had only recently arrived at Bussorah, did much to restore order in the district, and no river troubles or cases of brigandage, piracy, or robbery occurred during his short administration—in fact, His Majesty's consul at

Bussorah reported in March that such excellent order was maintained on the Shatt-el-Arab that he recommended trying the experiment of sending no British gun-boat to look after the interests of British Indian date merchants in these parts during this year's date season. A staunch supporter of the new regime, the vali had evidently been much embroiled with the Sheikh of Koweit on the Persian Gulf and the necessity of extending Turkish influence in those regions by all means in his power. Being impetuous, adventurous and arbitrary in his methods, he unfortunately succeeded during a number of unpleasant incidents during his administration, and raised many of the thorny questions which lay dormant regarding the Persian Gulf littoral, tempting to demonstrate Britain's protection of the Bahreinese resident at Bussorah by pointing out his at Odeid and Wakra, and by his attitude towards the Sheikhs of Mohammerah and Koweit.

In the month of February his relations with these sheikhs were apparently most cordial, they all met and shared together in a festival spirit, and seemed to celebrate their friendship but this seeming entente was not long to manifesting itself. The Sheikh of Mohammerah had promised to assist the vali in keeping order by handing over certain Arabs who sought refuge in his dominions, nevertheless the vali commanded that, in several cases during the spring, he failed to do so, and at last, exasperated by the first case of a certain Mohammed Ali, the governor refusing either to receive his sheikhdom or his explanations or proposals for an arrangement to the matter, despatched troops to arrest Ghadhab at his residence at Zein, in Turkish territory. The people of Zein refused to give up Ghadhab, whereupon the vali sent a gun-boat and troops who invaded the place, sent and looted many houses, and inadvertently killed one of the sheikh's brothers who resided there. One of the sheikh's sons fled to Bussorah and took refuge in the consulate. The sheikh appealed to His Majesty's Government for protection and redress and His Majesty's consul at Bussorah was instructed to effect a settlement of the case locally if possible in order to avoid raising the question of interference in the Shatt-el-Arab. After protracted negotiations, Nazif Bey agreed to accept Sheikh Khazal's explanations, and to consider the incident closed, though refusing officially to express regret for the death of his wife and destruction of some of his property or compensation for these losses. To this end he also agreed to allow the sheikh to register any lands acquired by him in Bussorah vilayet, which was done. It was not until the end of November that His Majesty's Embassy were able to have this order cancelled, the Sublime Porte insisting on this point. Another matter was on which concerned the Persian rather than the British Embassy, and several other minor matters the vali showed his resentment against this sheikh.

All these misunderstandings have affected the relations between the vali and Sheikh Mohammerah, though during the period of the visit of Nazif Bey a more cordial feeling between them was established. The sheikh was informed privately by the British Government that the vali had been ordered to refuse to allow the sheikh to register lands unless he did so as an Ottoman subject, but the sheikh considered this to be an abnormality of his own. The sheikh refused to do this, and it was eventually suggested to him that he might register in the names of his four sons that they would become Ottoman subjects, but that lands would be held by the Government would not accept this proposal to register with the exception of his wife's dowry, or as an alternative to grant lands as a sheikh in addition to his present holdings. The sheikh, however, remained contrary throughout the discussions, although an Arab sheikh in Zobair country was attributed to his recent resignation, which the vali denied he could mean would be held over the former owner of the land on condition to disown the sale, and further issued a decree prohibiting the sheikh from purchasing any further lands in the Bussorah vilayet.

But the vali's position with regard to his own officials was making his continuation in the post more and more difficult. Nazim Pasha, Vali of Bagdad, interfered constantly with matters at Bussorah, and the commodore at Bussorah, Hekmet Pasha, intriguing with Nazim, finally drove Nazif Bey to resign in September. In doing so he pointed out the impossibility of obeying orders from Bagdad as well as from Constantinople and clearly indicated his disapproval of Nazim's regime. Coming as it did soon after his disputes with the Sheikh of Mohammerah, his resignation has been erroneously connected with this incident, and has afforded some satisfaction to the sheikh. Before resigning, he had just arrived at an agreement with the sheikh for the regular patrol of the Shatt-el-Arab, but Hekmet Pasha has cancelled this arrangement, and since the arrival of his successor, Hussein Djelal Bey, insecurity at Bussorah and on the river has returned to an alarming degree. In November, assassi-

nations and robberies were occurring nightly, and the new vali is powerless to control these disorders

One of his first actions on reaching Bussorah was to offer the Sheikh of Koweit a revenue of 100*l* a-year in his capacity as a kaimakam of the Turkish Government, an offer which was promptly refused

Persian Gulf

Zakhnuniyeh.

The presence of Turkish troops on the Island of Zakhnuniyeh had formed the subject of a protest on the part of His Majesty's Government to the Sublime Porte in 1909 and the troops had been withdrawn in September of that year It appears, however that their withdrawal only took place in connection with the end of the fishing season, and in April of this year Turkish gendarmes reappeared there, the Turkish assumption that the island formed practically a part of the mainland implying an intention to extend the Turkish sphere of influence to the coast south east of the accepted limit of Qeir Though withdrawn again early in May for a short time in July the gendarmes were again in occupation and were hoisting the Turkish flag every Friday Strong representations were made by His Majesty's Embassy at the Porte against this violation of the *status quo* and the immediate withdrawal of the gendarmes was demanded After some delay, occasioned partly by his expressed desire not to lower Turkish prestige in the eyes of the Arabs and of the local authorities, the Minister for Foreign Affairs instructed the Vali of Bussorah in October not to allow gendarmes or soldiers to return to Zakhnuniyeh after their departure at the end of the present fishing season unless authorised by the central authorities to do so, and in November it was reported that the gendarmes had deserted their posts alleging as the reason their fears of a Bedouin raid.

Oteid and Wakra

In August the Vali of Bussorah, apparently on his own authority, appointed a mudir to Oteid, in Abu Dhabi, and in October mudirs were similarly appointed to Wakra and Zobara, in the El Katr peninsula, beyond Turkish jurisdiction in the Gulf.

Strong protests were made to the Sublime Porte at these violations of the *status quo*, and instructions were in consequence sent to the vali to cancel any such appointments that he might have made. His Majesty's ship "Redbreast" visiting Oteid and Wakra in November found that no mudirs had actually arrived

Turkey in Africa

On the 6th January an encounter occurred between Turkish and Tunisian troops at Debaat. This otherwise unimportant frontier incident led to pourparlers between the French and Turks, as a result of which a mixed commission met at Tripoli on the 11th April, and on the 18th May produced a convention for the delimitation of the frontier to the following effect On either side the tribal rights to property whether collective or individual in the disputed region are expressly reserved the frontier adopted is the one hitherto maintained by the Tunisians from Ras Ajir on the Mediterranean, to the Wady Mogta to a point whence a line is drawn through the territories of Wazzan (to Tripoli) and Delaybat (to Tunis), then in a south-westerly direction to Wady Jeneyen, thence in a southerly and south-westerly direction to the outskirts of Ghadames so as to give to Tunis the wells of Medeiser, Kestem (or Kreshem), El Hawia, and Taret with half the wells of Zar and Meshagig, which are indispensable for the caravan route to Ghadames. This settlement seems to be a gain for Tunis A mixed commission was also appointed to effect the delimitation This particular difficulty seems therefore to be amicably settled But the convention makes no mention of the Franco-Tunisian treaty of Bardo (Kasr-es-Said) of 1881 determining the position of France in Tunis which Turkey refused to recognise, and the more delicate question of the status of Tunisians in Turkey has during the year formed the subject of negotiations between France and Turkey In discussing the Turco frontier question the French press pointed out that sooner or later the Algerian frontier would also have to be defined, and, in view

of the French military operations resulting in the occupation of Waday, the capture of its capital Abeshr, dethronement of its Sultan Doudmourrah, and his replacement by the French protege Assa, it may be worth recalling that in 1890 the Turks laid claim to a vast territory extending to Lake Chad and the Congo watershed, and including Bornu, Bagirmi, Waday, Kanem, Borku, &c It may not, therefore, be an idle speculation to anticipate that, with the somewhat chauvinistic tendencies of the new regime, the germ of dispute latent in the undefined state of the Turkish boundaries in Africa may suddenly develop into serious difficulties with the Soudan, Egypt Tunis, Algeria, or even, perhaps, Nigeria, and it is for this reason that I have ventured in this year's report on some recapitulation of the frontier situation The embassy is already in communication with the Porte on the subject of the status of negroes of Nigerian origin in Tripoli and Benghazy, the Vali of Tripoli having refused, in the absence of special instructions, to recognise the right of His Majesty's consular officers to register and protect them

An arrangement come to in February, at a meeting of representative sheikhs from both sides of the border for the settlement of internal quarrels has somewhat lessened the chances of the Egyptian frontier question being raised, and there have been no new developments in the past year, though in October it was reported that the Turks intended to dispatch gendarmes to Sollum, Jaghbub, and Kufra (to which last place the Government engineer of Benghazy was sent later on to choose a site for barracks) On this report the Intelligence Department of the Egyptian War Office drew up a note of the history of the frontier question, showing that, as the Porte was informed in 1904, we consider that the boundary starts from Ras Jebel Sollum the headland at the north of Sollum Harbour follows the crest of the ridge, and runs in a south-south-westerly direction, including in Egyptian territory the oases of Siwa and Jaghbub, while Kufra, as His Majesty's Government informed the Italian Ambassador in London in 1907, is regarded as Turkish.

With regard to the internal situation, there would appear from the reports of His Majesty's consular officers to have been some discontent, partly due to some small attempts at reforms conflicting with local vested interests and partly to the incompetence and venality of the administration, but it is little use to distinguish between the real grievances and the manifestations of local intrigues There is some jealousy between the civil officials and the military, which does not conduce to the smooth working of the administrative machine, and the editor of a local Arabic paper, who published an article vehemently condemning the Government's practice of entrusting the civil authority even in small districts to military men was the object of several hostile demonstrations on the part of the officers in Tripoli, and was even fired at in the street, and his paper very shortly ceased to appear One distinct source of dissatisfaction has been the Government's practical abolition of conscription to enforce military service, in Derna, it is said, the proclamation produced a regular hostile demonstration, in the course of which the authorities were threatened Another grievous measure was an attempt to enforce the law relating to the property of deceased Ottoman subjects, an endeavour to seize such property belonging to Jews, made by the director of the Orphans' Fund was frustrated by the remonstrations and protests of the Jewish tradespeople of Tripoli while similar attempts to appropriate Moslem property resulted in riots at Azizia, Mesurata, and Gharian, in the course of which three of the inhabitants and two soldiers were reported to have been killed at Mesurata, and one soldier at Gharian A lamentable state of insecurity from robbery also prevailed at Benghazi at the beginning of the year, for which the mutessarif was apparently dismissed, while the vali and president of the municipality of Tripoli disgusted would be public contractors by their unbusinesslike methods

Another cause of discontent has been the Government's seemingly favourable attitude towards the Banco di Roma, the firman recognising the Benghazi mine was read at a large meeting attended by the local officials, and in June the municipality of Tripoli concluded a loan with the bank which was regarded with disfavour by the population not only on account of its disadvantageous terms, but also as a betrayal of national interests to the foreigner, the natives are naturally suspicious of this establishment as an instrument for the development of Italian interests by the acquisition of land and the encouragement of Italian immigration Whatever may have been the motives of the authorities' attitude in this connection, Italian aspirations are not lost sight of, and during the tension consequent on the Hodeidah incident a rumour went abroad that Italy was preparing for a descent on Tripoli This rumour, which was officially denied in the press, may have been no more than a 'canard,' and

I would not mention it but for the fact that I have just (26th January, 1911) been approached by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a request for the good offices of Great Britain to prevent the despatch of an Italian fleet to Tripoli, with which his Excellency has been threatened if satisfaction is not given to Italy in the case of one Gazzoni, an Argentine journalist, who was expelled from Tripoli at the request of the Italian consul-general, on account of "immoral" publications presumably of an anti-Italian character but as now returned

There is nothing new to report with regard to the slave and arms traffic, but it may perhaps be hoped that the transfer to the Sirdar's superintendence of the Egyptian Department for the Repression of Slavery, the French occupation of Wadai, and the establishment of the new régime in Turkey will combine to effect the gradual suppression of the slave trade, which of the 'levelling' policy eventually extended to Yemen, the disarmament which forms part of that policy will naturally entail the stern repression of gun-running. But these provinces have a distinctive position and character, and it remains to be seen whether the Young Turks will judge it expedient to risk kindling the fanatical spirit which on the approach of the French military advance in 1909, led the Senussi of Kufra to declare a Holy War against Ottoman sovereignty, by appealing to the wild Arabs of Arabia. The severe treatment meted out to other stiff-necked elements of the Ottoman subject races. However, there may be there are indications that a little more interest is about to be taken in these isolated provinces

The Cretan Question

The Cretan question was much in evidence during the greater part of the year, and as many of the questions which arose during it had a very direct bearing on the eventual solution of the problem, the attention of the protecting Powers was from the beginning of the Chamber's session the last days of 1909 when the newly appointed Executive Committee took the oath of fidelity to the King of Greece, and resolutions were passed for the reception of Greek legislation and laws to suit the requirements of the island, and for the participation of Cretan with the Greek Deputies. The Porte at once protested against the first, and second of these proceedings. But the Powers decided that the question could more conveniently raise another question viz, whether M. Venizelos's appointment as High Commissioner of the island does not expire in December 1911 as originally arranged in the event of his being called on to form a Ministry in Athens. A second discussion on the question was answered by the Powers in the negative, and subsequently the Porte Government in view of the critical position of the King of Greece, intimated its assent to become to M. Venizelos's appointment. Meanwhile the Cretans expressed confirmation of the Cretans sent deputies to the Greek Chamber was, and a progressive irritation at Constantinople, which the Government made secret that the admission of Cretan deputies to be a breach of the understanding between the Powers felt constrained to address a strong warning to the Cretans against persisting in their provocative attitude, among the earlier measures of which suggested in the event of the Cretans pressing its claims was the re-occupation of the island by the international troops.

A further unfortunate legacy of the Chamber of 1909 was the decision to convoke a National Assembly of Crete. Elections took place in March, and the Assembly met early in May. At the opening ceremony the Christian deputies, as had been decided before took the oath of fidelity to King George, and manifested every intention of enforcing it on the Moslem deputies also, and one of the latter was assaulted as he presented a protest against the proceedings. The Porte at once protested to the four Powers who responded through their representatives at Constantinople on 11th May that they considered that "the taking the oath to the King of Greece by a part of the Cretan Assembly does not constitute a modification of the *status quo*," a declaration which was supplemented by a statement endorsing the view of the Porte that the oath must be considered as null and void (the 19th May)

The note, however, did little to appease the Turks, as in spite of all the efforts of the four consuls at Canea to bring the Cretan deputies to a more reasonable frame of mind, the Cretan Assembly far from showing any readiness to exempt the Moslem deputies from the oath, gave further cause of offence to Turkey by exacting it from Moslem functionaries also, and by proposing the fusion of the Bank of Crete with the National Bank of Greece. Thus by the end of May, although the official relations between them were "correct," the situation between Greece and Turkey became seriously strained. The Cretans, however, seemed bent on pushing matters to

extremes, for on the last day of the month the Executive Committee addressed a note to the four consuls appealing to the Powers not to delay the union with Greece, "the sole practical solution of the Cretan question." Meanwhile the Porte had been renewing its protests while the Powers had been discussing the best means of bringing effective pressure to bear on the Cretans, and had as a preliminary step had increased their naval forces in Cretan waters when on the 5th June the Assembly was summoned to admit the Moslem deputies without taking the oath, failing which the Powers "s'aviseront à tels mesures qu'leur paraîtront opportunes pour rétablir la situation en Crète."

The Cretans, however, remained adamant and the Powers commenced an active exchange of views as to the means to put an end to a situation which was becoming dangerous. In the course of the negotiations a proposal for a conference, to be held either in London or at Constantinople, for a definite solution of the Cretan question, was put forward

It was stated that as an alteration in the status of Crete involved a modification of the Treaty of Berlin all the signatory Powers of that instrument and not the four protecting Powers only should take part in the conference and share the responsibilities of a decision which would certainly entail either Greece or Turkey, but as it was practically certain that Germany and Austro-Hungary would decline to accept the invitation the proposal was dropped as impracticable. The principle of a European conference was not however, abandoned, and the four Powers in reply (26th June) to the Porte's protest, after reaffirming their intention to safeguard the 'sovereign rights' of Turkey in Crete, informed the Porte that if the Ottoman Government thought it could find a definite solution of the Cretan question, the four Powers would be ready to examine the question with the assistance of the other Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin

The substitution of the expression "sovereign rights" instead of that of "supreme rights" which had been previously used, was calculated to warm the Cretans that they were exhausting the patience of the Powers, but even this the Assembly gave no sign of heeding, and M. Venizelos, the head of the Executive Committee, was apparently powerless to effect it. In Athens, however, where the Cretan boycott of Turkish goods was beginning produced serious effect, the Government kept a tight grip of the situation and only succeeded at the request of the Powers in sending a message to M. Venizelos to take every step to meet the Assembly to show it the will of the Powers, who, if within a period of thirty days the Assembly refused to do so by 15th July at succeeded—thanks to the consuls' tact to avoid a conflict between the Cretans in occupy the Cretan islands, ordering a quorum formed of his own to Powers to vote for the admission of the Mussulman deputies without taking the oath before the 30th September.

In Turkey, the use of the expression of the words 'sovereign rights' was hailed as a victory and the passage referring to the appeal to the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin was construed as a distinct step towards the satisfaction of Turkish wishes, but on the other hand, the Porte was disposed to resent the advice given by the Greek Government to the Cretans of which some little parade had been made by the Greek press as an improper interference by Greece in Cretan affairs, but the Powers declined to listen to the complaint

A further provocation to Turkey was the nomination of M. Venizelos and five other Cretan leaders by M. Rallys and his friends as candidates for election in Greek constituencies to the Greek National Assembly to be held in August. The Porte at once protested (3rd August) and efforts were made to induce the candidates to withdraw. Those who were of Cretan origin undertook not to accept election, but M. Venizelos who was able to prove his Greek nationality and another Cretan deputy who had some claim to it, decided to do so, though the former unwilling to do nothing to forward his candidature. In his case therefore, the four Powers did not see their way to insisting on his not taking his seat in the Greek Chamber, the more so inasmuch as although the Grand Vizier at Marienbad had been talking in a somewhat menacing tone, Rifaat Pasha had stated to me (22nd August) that the Porte would be satisfied if the Powers, in the event of the Greek Assembly accepting any of the candidates whose nationality might be doubtful, would insist on their resigning their official positions in Crete. Ten days later, however, Fewzi Pasha communicated to His Majesty's Government a telegram from the Porte in which mention was made of the possibility of war with Greece in connection with M. Venizelos becoming a member of the Hellenic Assembly to this the Powers replied by a collective note (5th September) recalling Rifaat's statement and stating

that if M Venizelos accepted his mandate in Greece, they would no longer recognise his official position in Crete and would insist on the severance of all his political connection with the island M Venizelos, who had been absent in Europe during the Greek elections, on his return to Crete informed the four consuls of his resignation as a member of the Executive Committee and as a Cretan deputy The Porte acquiesced in the arrangement, and although it blustered somewhat when M Venizelos became premier of the council in Greece, it did not push its complaints far These repeated provocations, nevertheless, had caused intense irritation in Turkey, and the Porte went so far as to dispatch troops to the frontier

The next point of dispute was the appointment of a Greek judge to the Court of Appeal at Candia, but in this there was nothing irregular as article 112 of the Cretan constitution of 1907 expressly provides that certain members of the Cretan Courts of Appeal may be of Hellenic nationality and belong to the active service of Greece.

In September the Greek Government, contrary to its undertaking given to the four Powers had given promotion in the Greek army to certain officers in the Cretan service The Porte at once called attention to the irregularity, and on the invitation of the Powers the Greek Government undertook to stop the practice and recall from Crete any officers so promoted Owing to an oversight one such officer, Colonel Manferrates, who commanded the Cretan gendarmerie, did actually return to Crete, but was again recalled In the same month the Porte decided that Cretan imports into Turkey should be subjected to the 11 per cent duty like goods of foreign origin

On the 23rd November the Cretan Assembly met again and was opened as before in the name of King George, the Mussulman deputies were allowed to take their seats without taking the oath to His Majesty, but in order to avoid any untoward incident they did not attend the sitting until the opening ceremony was concluded The Porte made a protest as usual, but was informed by the Powers in reply that their determination to maintain the sovereign rights of the Sultan had been in no way affected by the actions of the Cretan Assembly

The question of inviting M Zaimis to resume his functions as High Commissioner cropped up more than once during the year, and, although no actual decision was taken on the point, the discussions on it evolved some expressions of opinion that are, perhaps, worth noting Although in Graeco-Cretan circles there was at one time a certain feeling in favour of the proposal, opinion seems on the whole to have crystallised against it It was felt that it would have been a step backwards to the *status quo ante* October 1908, and, therefore, also in a direction which might have involved eventually the disappearance of the Greek emblems on the Cretan stamps and even the suppression of the oath to the King of the Hellenes. The Turks also regarded it with equally little favour, for in their eyes it implied an affirmation of the personal union between Crete and the kingdom of Greece by which M Zaimis was appointed The Porte added, with a view to dissuade the Powers from the step, that in the event of a new High Commissioner being appointed, the selection would have to be made with its approval, a declaration which the Powers did not regret The King of Greece on the other hand, has stated that he would never consent to resign his privilege of making the appointment

During the most acute phases of the Cretan question in the summer the foreign press, and especially that of Germany and Austria, showed a very acute interest in its various developments, and the latter strove to represent Great Britain as being the chief obstacle to a definite solution in conformity with Turkish wishes being reached This tactics, the motive of which is obvious, had some success for a time, but a later period became unwelcome to the Turkish Government when they were beginning to foresee that the prospect of having to have recourse to the London money market made it politic to conciliate the good-will of His Majesty's Government, and Rifaat Pasha, by a statement in the Chamber of Deputies that these allegations were wholly unfounded, did his best to counteract the manœuvre

Turco-Persian Frontier

On the 25th January my Russian colleague and I under instructions from our Governments, made a joint representation to the Porte to the effect that information received went to show that certain points incontestably in Persian territory such as Mamash and Nagardeh, had been and still were occupied by the Turks, which had

produced strained relations with the Persian authorities, that while the two Governments would, no doubt be prepared to give good advice to the Persian Government, it was necessary that the Turkish Government should exercise more severe control over those in command of their troops in those regions, and that the two Governments were convinced that the Sublime Porte were sincerely desirous of settling the question in a spirit of equity, and that the first step towards this end should be the withdrawal of Turkish troops from points east of the contested zone

The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied in terms vague even to the point of declaring his complete ignorance as to the whereabouts of the places mentioned The Grand Vizier spoke more to the point, and alluded to the lack of authority in Persia the absence of any guarantee that in the event of these places being evacuated they would not be occupied by Russia and the necessity of protecting Sunnis against Shiahs He even carried the war into the enemy's territory and declared that the Persians had occupied territory incontestably Turkish, he looked forward to the establishment of order in Persia, when a proper Persian commissioner might be appointed to enquire into the matter with a Turkish commissioner, but His Highness made no mention of mediation

It seemed at first that our representation had had some effect, as, on the 27th February the Persian Ambassador stated that Rifaat Pasha had informed him that orders had been sent to the Turkish troops to withdraw from Sakiz, as it was admitted by the Persian territory, and that the Mushir of Van had been ordered to withdraw all troops sent within the last two months, but on the 5th March, the Persian Ambassador, under instructions from his Government complained to the Porte that not only had the troops not been withdrawn from Solduz and Nagardeh, but numerous acts of aggression on Haftkhel, Jace Anzal Dagh, and Van—claimed as integral parts of Persian territory—had been occupied, customs dues had been levied in certain parts of Urumia and Soujbulak, where taxes had also been collected from some of the villages, the Soujbulak Urumia and Urumia Tabreez roads had been cut, and trouble had been caused in the Urumia district by an Arab Sheikh Abdullah The Persian Government requested that the Turkish troops should be withdrawn at once to Constantinople and the other grievances promptly remedied

Towards the end of the month Russian Embassy Dragoman received news from Tabreez and Urumia that on the 17th and 18th March, Turkish troops passed through Urumia and encamped on the west shore of the lake the Turkish district (i.e. the occupied territory of Urumia was immediately by Turkish cavalry being greatly reinforced there besides the consular escort, and that a forward movement towards the Lake through Khoi Salmas and Urumia was apprehended It was further stated that the Turks were collecting taxes in the whole of the Urumia district, that customs houses had been established at Dilman (a Barandoz, were duties levied on all goods that communication between Urumia and Tabreez was dangerous owing to brigandage by Kurds and that the last information showed that the Turks intended to reinforce their troops in the district by 500 cavalry and 400 infantry No confirmation of this last report was however obtainable either at Van or Erzerum

In support of the above contentions, information was received from Tabreez to the effect that a Turkish general with an escort of twenty cavalry had taken up his quarters at Urumia, and had been followed by some 170 soldiers, who were being lodged in the town News was also received that armed encampments were being moved up by the Turks to Salmas and Khoi and strong reinforcements, but His Majesty's consul at Tabreez did not believe that the Turks were collecting taxes throughout the whole of the Urumia district

Another joint Anglo-Russian representation was made to the Porte on the 13th April against the recent increase of Turkish troops in Persian territory, and further encroachments, and against the collection of taxes and customs dues. The Russian communication complained further of the appointment of kaimakams in Jelu and Cheyrk, the collection of taxes in Barch, Serdesht, Lahigan, Ushnu, Dostebil, Mergavvar, Desht, Tergavvar the district of Urumia (notably in the villages of the Baranduz-Chai, and those on the Sheir-Chai as far as Brua [Bian], Urse on the Rouza-Chai and Nazlou Chai, and in most of the villages of Anzali, of the districts of Souma Baraaost, of Solduz, and in the greater part of the district of Soujboulak. A duty of 11 per cent *ad valorem* was, it was complained, being levied at Jelukend. Further the Turks had occupied the district of Dol, and thus barred the Urumia Soujbulak road, the district of Anzal had also been occupied, and a detachment of eighty infantry posted half-way between Urumia and Salmas, the Turks had lately reinforced their troops, notably at Khoi, Kala Passova, Urumia on Rezaieh in the

Dasht-i-Gul street), and had cut off communication between Urumia and Tabreez, and had encouraged brigands on the Urumia-Khoi and Soujboulak–Urumia roads. Finally, no news had been received of the evacuation of Solduz.

According to the Governor-General of Tabreez the Turks were in occupation of the Kotur street and the greater part of the regions west and south-west of the lake, and between Urumia and Soujboulak they were practically free to act as they pleased. The places where Turks were actually present were, he stated, Kohneshehr (Salmas), Mawana, in Pergavar, Ararat, 5 miles west of Urumia, Rasagan, on the west shore of the lake south of Urumia, Nagirde and Passalu, in Lahijan, but he seemed to take a calm view of the state of affairs, and declared that he had no confirmation of the alarmist reports as to the imminence of an occupation of Urumia or of an advance in strength to the lake. A subsequent telegram from Tabreez confirmed the report that the Turks were levying export duty of 5 per cent. at Julalkhaneh, near Baradiz.

I recalled the enquiries of the Russian Ambassador and myself. His Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he knew absolutely nothing of an increase of troops or of any orders for such having been given. He knew that a transit duty of 5 per cent. was levied on certain articles, but had no knowledge of an 11 per cent. Internal taxes having been imposed. He promised to make immediate enquiries. To my Russian colleague Rifat Pasha seems to have said that, though no increase had been made in the total number of troops, it was possible that positions hitherto unoccupied were being occupied by Turkish troops. His Excellency seems further to have said that the levy of 11 per cent. duty would at once be stopped, alleging that the attention of the Government was to levy 11 per cent. on goods passing into the contested districts, but only 1 per cent. from the native Persian Christian merchants.

Later on Rifat Pasha accepted a somewhat different attitude, and while declaring that no further troops would be sent, stated that a considerable number of troops were already on the spot. He regretted that 5 per cent. duty was levied on the goods of Christians of Persian nationality, and stated that orders to this effect had been given by the Ottoman Government as being in accordance with the Treaty of Erzeroum. He also stated that Persian subjects and Turkish subjects in Julfa, he stated, were in the habit of claiming that the frontier had been drawn to the west of Julfa, and that the question was still undecided. He added that the Persian claim to exemption from duty was not admissible, and that the Persian Government had no right to interfere in the matter. He also stated that the Turkish troops had been ordered to prevent the passage of brigands from Persian territory into Turkish territory, and that the Turkish troops were therefore not to be withdrawn.

The Russian Government considered the Porte's reply unsatisfactory and evasive, and, on the 19th May, a further communication was made on the 16th May, proposing that the British, Russian, and Austrian Consuls-General at Erzeroum should proceed to the spot to report what the assistance of the Persian authorities in the matter was. This proposal was declined by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on the ground that the Consuls-General had no business to be at Erzeroum, and that the Porte could not be responsible for the safety of Consuls who left their proper posts. The Russian Government, however, replied that the Consuls-General were not to be left to return of their own accord, but that special precautions would be taken for the safety of the two Consuls, stating that no serious encounter had taken place, and that the Turkish advance on the frontier was analogous to that of the Russians in the north. No further reply was made to these communications.

Affairs continued to remain unsatisfactory on the frontier, and on the 30th June a further protest was made by the Russian Government against the occupation of Persian territory by Turkish troops. The Russian Government also stated that they could not admit the claim of the Turkish Government to levy duties on goods passing into the contested districts, and that they could not recognise the right of the Turkish Government to levy duties on Persian subjects. The Russian Government also stated that they could not admit the claim of the Turkish Government to levy duties on goods passing into the contested districts, and that they could not recognise the right of the Turkish Government to levy duties on Persian subjects.

was also said that a Russian consul, accompanied by a Cossack escort, proceeded to the spot, but was compelled to desist from making an enquiry, the Turkish commander declaring that the matter exclusively concerned the Ottoman and Persian authorities, and the retirement of the Erzeroum consul. It afterwards stated that this Russian consul came to Bayazid to protest against the violation of Persian territory. The Persian Government also stated in this account of the incident that some of the Turkish inhabitants of Kizil Dize had complained that Persians had encroached on Turkish territory on the right bank of the Dize Chai, which was regarded as the frontier, and had sent troops there. Their Lieutenant, without making further enquiry, had sent two battalions across the Inji Chai, and these, after a fight, had taken up a position several miles within Persian territory, a forward movement crossing the frontier on the line that the troops had appeared in Northern Persia.

The Russian Government made a protest at the Porte, requiring the restoration of the *status quo ante*, and demanding that assurances that it would be preserved but nothing seems to have been done. Of any such assurances not to effect.

The views given by the Vali of Erzeroum was that the Persians had been the aggressors, that no evidence could be adduced in support of their claims, and that the territory contested was inhabited only by Turks. He also added that Persian subjects would be allowed to keep possession of their crops on payment of the tithes, but that no new crops planting would be permitted.

Early in September fresh disturbances were reported at Urumia, the Persians attacking the Jews and pillaging the town, and, as a result of these disorders and those at Soujboulak, the Turkish consuls at those two places applied for and obtained guards. The Minister for Foreign Affairs admitted that small detachments had been sent, but this was also communicated to His Majesty's Government and the Ottoman Ambassador. In the middle of October another telegram from Bagdad, for the Shah's service, reported that Turkish consuls had left there.

A week later, on the 22nd October, Black Bashi were at the Turks [illegible], the Sardar of Makou, causing the spoils Persian [illegible] to be returned, but was killed. The Russian Embassy protested against the withdrawal of Turks to the Mussulmans, but he placed [illegible] on the ground that Turkey had [illegible] had been built in order to prevent the passage of brigands from Persia, but [illegible] by the Turks were the [illegible] and post. The Vali of Erzeroum was instructed to address [illegible] Persian [illegible] Russian [illegible] Turkish rights of the [illegible] along the [illegible] of the Ottoman [illegible] would be replaced by [illegible]. It was [illegible] that the Northern barracks at Black Bashi were [illegible] by a brigade of Russian Bayazid consul-general's from [illegible] Russian [illegible] for the withdrawal of Russian troops, while the Vali of Erzeroum [illegible] Turkish posts [illegible] His Majesty's Government that the Turks [illegible] were [illegible] many posts on Persian territory, and [illegible] that the Persians could [illegible] more than protest against the withdrawal of Russian troops. Nothing, however, came of these [illegible] at the request of the Ottoman Empire.

During the [illegible] the Imperial Ottoman [illegible] and [illegible] October. His Majesty's consul at Erzeroum [illegible] at the Bayazid [illegible] Sea. Mawana on the Urumia [illegible] Persian [illegible] Turkish [illegible] with the Turkish [illegible] Persian [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Pasha pointing out the necessity of strengthening the forces on the frontier. On the 20th November Mr. Greig reported that there was no unusual military activity in the Mosul districts, and the redifs had not been called up, but that, of the division which had its head-quarters at Kerkuk, two battalions were at Passova, two at Sirkamanch, and one at Rowanduz, while there were detachments at Sophi-bas, Nagardeh, Serdesht, Bana, and other places. The battalions were very weak, and in the advanced posts there was much discontent and many desertions. On the 9th December Mr. Greig reported that the Turkish Commander at Passova had asked for reinforcements and a few companies had been ordered to Rayat near the Gamshan Pass, on the road from Passova to Sayid-bek-ass. Rawanduz. On the 19th December Mr. Greig heard that 750 men had left Kerkuk for Passova, but a few days later reported that some of the mules had probably stopped at Rawanduz. On the 21st December he reported that according to his information, 1,200 men and a mountain battery had by that time left Kerkuk for the frontier, and that there were then three battalions at Sulaimaneh and another three at Kawanduz. He thought this might indicate a determination to encroach further on the Guran, Awroman and Merwan district. 200 cases of ammunition for mountain guns had also been sent to Rawanduz. Finally, on the 22nd December, Mr. Greig telegraphed that he had learnt that energetic military preparations were being made at Kerkuk.

With regard to the above Mr. Marling was informed by Rifaat Pasha that there had been no movement of troops towards Passova and that the strictest orders had been issued to Commissioner Tevfik and the Turkish occupation, while the Vali of Mosul told Mr. Greig that all officers on the frontier had been warned to avoid any provocative action.

It is difficult, especially in the winter season, to obtain exact and reliable information of the movements of Turkish troops, but they would seem according to reports from scores of other than Persian sources to have occupied the following places as well as a few others the position of which is not clear, or has been subsequently reported to have evacuated: Sonat district, Jelkherd, Gumbo district, Shaus, Nagerch, Passeri Soujbulak all apparently south-east of the Persian frontier zone: Khan, Dilman, Sauman, Avroman, Ushnu, Banah on the eastern borders of the zone, Sardasht and Merguver partly within the Persian side of the zone, and the Barandoz district, Baradoz, Marevi, Lahgan, and Serdesht within the zone (the Grand Vizier having omitted that Dilman and Passova are in Persian territory, while the Russian Foreign Affairs included Ushnu, Serdesht and Lahgan were Turkish). The Persian Government have also complained of the occupation of Ambar Reshegan, Passeh, Anzal, Bedjan and Azao.

The Porte have replied to the representations made to them by either denying the facts or alleging that they are under investigation, with no apparent result or excepting the instances which, apart from the necessity of keeping order and protecting the Sunnis, are due to misapprehensions as to the limits of the frontier zone, or finally, by pointing out the presence of Russian troops in the north of Persia. In view of this last retaliatory argument, which, however, has only been tacitly put by the Porte, it was satisfactory to hear from the Russian Government on the 31st December that there was a good prospect of their being able soon to withdraw their troops from Kazvin.

Annual Report on Sanitary Affairs in the Turkish Empire in the Year 1910

The matter dealt with in the present report are grouped under the following headings:

- The Cholera Epidemic
- Plague Outbreaks.
- The Mosleh Pilgrimage
- The Board's Finances
- Changes in the Board of Health
- The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway
- The Sanitation of Jeddah and other Hedjaz Towns
- Penalties on Defaulting Pilgrim Ships.
- Charges for Telegrams and Customs Dues
- Turkey and the International Sanitary Conventions
- The Alexandria and Constantinople Boards of Health.
- The Mahe and the Board of Health and
- The Mixed Commission for Tariff Revision.

The Cholera Epidemic

The year has been marked by a very wide extension of cholera. In Russia, where annual revivals of the disease have occurred since 1904, it caused a widespread and fatal epidemic, the most severe that that country has suffered from since the great epidemics of 1892-94. In all, some 216,000 cases of the disease and over 100,000 deaths were recorded in all parts of the Russian Empire. The infection spread to almost every Government of European Russia, to the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia, and even as far as the Pacific coast of Asiatic Russia.

From Russia the disease was carried to several other European countries. Between June and October a few sporadic cases were reported from various parts of Germany (Rubleben, Spandau, Freuberg, Marienburg, Copitz, Sommerau).

A few cases were imported on a steamer to Marseilles in October, but otherwise France remained free from the disease.

In Austria some cases occurred in Vienna, in Trieste, and in one or two places in Galicia.

Hungary was more severely visited, and between August and November the disease became epidemic in a large number of places, situated mostly on the course of the Danube.

In August, cholera appeared in Italy, and spread rather widely in the neighbourhoods of Naples, Brindisi, and generally throughout the southern half of the peninsula.

Imported or sporadic cases of the disease occurred in Roumania, Bulgaria, and Servia, but no epidemic followed in any of these countries. The infection was also imported by ships to ports in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Holland, but in none of these instances did it cause an epidemic.

From Europe cholera was carried to Madeira, where a serious epidemic resulted, cases were even imported to the American continent, but it is not proposed here to trace the disease in countries situated far from the Turkish borders.

In the summer and autumn many imported cases of cholera were seen in the Turkish ports of the Black Sea. In July the infection crossed the Russo-Turkish frontier and broke out in the Erzeroum vilayet. In September it appeared in Trebizond, and during the autumn months the disease epidemic in many places in the vilayets of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia. With one or two exceptions, however, it did not cause a very high mortality: most of the chief towns and many places escaped altogether. By the end of the year the epidemic had died down or almost disappeared from most parts of Asiatic Turkey, though still lingering in Smyrna and one or two other places.

In European Turkey there has been a similar prevalence of the disease. In Constantinople the first known case fell ill on the 13th September and by the end of the year over 1,200 cases and over 700 deaths had been recorded, among the civil population of the capital. Many other cases occurred in the garrison, and in spite of warnings the autumn manœuvres were held, on a unusually large scale, in the neighbourhood of Adrianople. Cholera broke out among the troops, and was widely spread by them on their dispersal after the manœuvres were over. At Rodosto on the Sea of Marmara, at Touzla in the Gulf of Ismid, and elsewhere the troops were seriously ravaged by cholera, and the total mortality reached a high figure. In Salonica an epidemic occurred, but of no great severity.

In the late summer and autumn cholera became epidemic in many parts of Persia. Resht and Lenkoran, Tabreez and neighbourhood, Meshed, Kermanshah, Kerind, Hamadan, and many other places were affected. The Kermanshah outbreak synchronised with the appearance of cholera in the adjoining portions of Turkey, and it is as yet uncertain whether these were infected from Persia or from other parts of Turkey. In the valley of the Tigris and the Shatt-el-Arab the disease was rather widely prevalent, and in Bussorah it caused a small epidemic, which spread to the lazaret of Sanabah, opposite that town.

Muscat was the scene of an epidemic of the disease in September and October.

From Italy cholera crossed the Mediterranean and appeared in Tripoli where an epidemic of some severity followed.

By the end of the year cholera had died down in most of the above-mentioned countries and districts, but it still lingers in places, and its revival in the spring or summer may be looked for with considerable certainty.

It is a remarkable fact that though cholera was so widely spread, and though infected groups of pilgrims arrived by sea and land, at Beirut, Aleppo and other

places, the pilgrimage of 1910-11 remained free from the disease until a fortnight after the completion of the fetes at Mina and Arafat. But at the end of the year (apparently on the 20th December) the disease appeared at Mecca, and has since (in the early days of 1911) spread to Medina, Jeddah, Yanbo, Hodeidah, and elsewhere. The further progress of this outbreak will, however, fall into the report for the year just begun.

The measures taken to control the epidemic in Turkey were unquestionably inadequate. The barriers opposed by the Board of Health's lazarets and other stations to the invasion of the country by the disease have been shown to be ineffective, and it becomes urgently necessary to carry out the measures already decided on by the Mixed Commission for Tariff Revision, for their thorough repair and *refection*. I shall recur to this point in a later section of this report.

When once the infection had entered the country the Board of Health was no longer responsible for the measures taken. During the past year the Turkish "Conseil de Medecine civile et d'Hygiene publique," which constitutes the medical department of the Ministry of the Interior, has been revived and has displayed considerable activity in connection with the epidemic. It has obtained from Parliament a special sanitary vote amounting to nearly £T 50,000, with this medical Parliament a special sanitary vote amounting to nearly £T 50,000, with this medical missions, disinfectors, disinfectants, drugs, stoves, and other necessary objects have been sent to the most seriously infected places, and a start must be given to the above-named council for showing much greater zeal and energy than were usually shown in the past on occasion with a cholera epidemic in this country. But the difficulties to be overcome were immense, no sort of public health organisation existed, and practically everything has to be improvised, the almost complete absence of sanitation throughout the Empire and the ignorance and fatality of the population had to be reckoned with, and no sufficient freedom was caused in many places by the existence of more than one authority by whom measures were imposed. Vali's or Kaimakams, of their own initiative and without orders from Constantinople, decreed and applied quarantines and other measures at the frontiers of their vilayets or circumscriptions or along the rivers, such as the Tigris and Euphrates, and great inconvenience was thus caused to travellers and to commerce. A properly organised public health service, controlled from a single central authority, is a crying need in this country. I scarcely ought to add, however, that there are signs that a real effort is being made to introduce this much needed reform.

Plague Outbreaks.

The outbreak of plague in Jeddah, which began on the 5th January, 1910, quickly attained formidable dimensions, ninety-seven deaths were recorded. Among the victims was Dr. Monastyrsky, brother of Dr. Zorich Bey, one of the ablest of the younger doctors in the Ottoman service. Cases of this plague spread to Lohaia and some other places in the Yemen, one imported case was seen in Mecca, and a few cases were landed from pilgrim ships in the Levant.

Bushire on the Persian Gulf was the scene of a sharp epidemic in April, May, and June, and a few cases occurred in Bassorah in April, May, and August.

Sporadic cases occurred at Beyrout in April, and at Adalia in October.

In Odessa plague has been present through the summer and autumn, over 140 cases having been recorded. Some outbreaks of the disease have also been reported from places in the Kirghiz steppes of the Astrakhan Government, in the Uralsk province, and in that of Semiretchensk (in Russian Central Asia). In October a serious epidemic of the disease appeared in several places in Manchuria, situated mostly on the Manchuria-East China Railway, and in the mines of the neighbourhood. Towards the end of the year this outbreak had assumed rather disquieting proportions.

Plague has been present in many parts of Egypt more or less throughout the year.

The Moslem Pilgrimage.

The returning pilgrimage of 1909-10 was declared "clean" owing to the presence of plague in Jeddah, and measures were consequently imposed by the Alexandria and Constantinople Boards of Health on pilgrims returning by sea and land. It may be observed that under the Paris convention of 1903 these measures are the same, whether applied for a few cases of plague in Jeddah or for a cholera epidemic raging

throughout the Hedjaz and I have ventured elsewhere to ask the question whether this is logical or desirable.

The outgoing Hadj of 1910-11 was, as stated above, free from cholera or plague—so far as concerns the appearance of either disease in the Hedjaz—until after the fetes at Mecca were over when both diseases appeared.

The pilgrimage regulations for 1910-11 again appeared as "dispositions speciales" instead of a "reglement." The clauses were rearranged and some improvements were introduced. The most important of these were in connection with the control of ordinary ships in the Black Sea and Mediterranean during the pilgrim season. The clauses in this connection on this subject were several times modified by the board, but never in a way to satisfy either the shipping companies or the advocates of a maximum of sanitary regulations. The measures were inspired mainly by a desire to prevent Russian pilgrims from landing in Constantinople, and the principal difficulty arose from the impossibility of distinguishing between passengers and pilgrims. At first vessels with five or with seven (according to their destination) Moslem deck or third-class passengers per 100 tons net register, were regarded as pilgrim ships, later it was ships with four per cent deck passengers of whatever religion that were so considered. These tentative efforts to assimilate ordinary ships to pilgrim ships in order to apply severe restrictive measures to them has caused much dissatisfaction to shipowners, and requires more careful consideration for another year.

The question of penalties for defaulting pilgrim ships is dealt with below.

As a result of the wide prevalence of cholera the Turkish lazarets in the Mediterranean were closed in the fall and in order to relieve them, and in view of the inadequacy of that of Abu Saafi (near the Alexandria) the Alexandria board was asked, in November last, if pilgrims from Jeddah could undergo their quarantine there. This the Alexandria Board readily and unanimously granted.

The Board's Finance.

The balance sheet for the financial year 1909-10 was published in October. The "ordinary" services showed a satisfactory result, receipts from just over £E 80,000 pastres in the preceding year to just over £E 90,000 pastres. The expenditure showed an increase of about £E 10,000 pastres, mainly owing to the application of the new scale of pay of the employés. The total surplus on the "Sanitary" account—made up of the surplus of receipts over expenditure of the interest on investments (over £E 1,000 in stocks and other items was no less than £E 3,307 pastres or over £E 80,000. On the other hand the "quarantine" account yielded quite a serious deficit, amounting to £E 765,835 pastres. In these great financial years the receipts, both "sanitary" and "quarantine," have been very large, and in spite of the heavy expenditure caused by the cholera epidemic there is reason to anticipate again a satisfactory margin.

Changes in the Board of Health.

Ahmed Eglal Bey, a member of the board and "bash-katib" of the administration was placed on the retired list in May. Said Bey, former "econome" and member of the board, replaced him as "bash-katib," and Dr. Fuad Bey, newly named member of the board, became "econome."

Dr. Jong of the Dutch colonial service has been appointed Netherlands delegate in succession to the late Dr. Stékoulis.

No French delegate has yet been appointed to replace Dr. Marabel, who retired. Dr. Trabaud, of the French stationnaire, has acted as French delegate throughout the year. Dr. Seligberg, 2nd dragoman of the German Embassy has replaced Dr. Weber as German delegate.

The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway.

In the pilgrimage season of 1909-10, 6,084 pilgrims travelled to Medina by the railway from Damascus, and 1,862 from Caiffa, making a total of 7,946. Of the return journey 15,222 pilgrims made use of the line and underwent their quarantine measures in the Tebuk lazaret. In the preceding year 5,421 pilgrims were said to have travelled down the line, and 14,120 to have returned by it. Considerable outlay

was again incurred in connection with the Tebuk lazaret, the receipts, however, covered what may be called purely "quarantine" expenditure.

In January a proposal was made by the Austrian delegate to send another mission of inspection down the line, with a view of selecting a more favourable site than Tebuk for the pilgrims' lazaret. That Tebuk presents certain disadvantages may be readily admitted, there is, it may be safely asserted, no site along the whole 1,300 miles between Damascus and Medina that would not present some disadvantages. In the opinion of the first mission of inspection these were less at Tebuk than elsewhere. In December 1909 an article appeared in an Austrian lay journal, written by Professor Musil, a priest and distinguished Arabian traveller and scholar, criticising the choice of Tebuk and dwelling on its disadvantages, while saying nothing of its undoubted advantages. This article was apparently inspired by the Austrian delegate on the Board of Health, and was largely quoted from by him. As no substantial reason has been advanced to justify the great expense involved in the dispatch of a second mission down the line so soon after the first, the British delegate opposed the project. But proposal that the whole question should be referred to a specially elected committee of the board, this course was agreed to and followed. At the first meeting of the committee the Austrian delegate proposed that the board should engage Professor Musil to travel through the regions traversed by the railway and make maps of these regions, and that he should later on be joined by the mission of the board which would thus complete the year of inspection under his guidance. Ultimately the board decided (on the 15th March) to adopt this proposal, and three members of the board, the Russian and Austrian delegates and a Turkish member, Dr Sua. Bey—were elected as members of the mission which were to join Professor Musil after he had completed his preliminary survey. In the spring the professor proceeded to Arabia, and for two or three months was travelling in the regions in question. In August a preliminary report to the board had arrived, which has since been translated. This report must be admitted by the most sceptical observer already to add much knowledge already possessed by the board. It states that there are only two possible sites for the pilgrims' lazaret—Medina, Mecha, Jeddah, and Mina. Professor Musil rejects the first three, and concludes that Mina is the best, if not the only possible place for the said institution. As a protest on behalf of thought, represented by the Austrian delegate himself, criticises the choice of Tebuk as being to the north, urges the construction of the lazaret much nearer to Medina, and seems to think that there is comparatively little divergence of view as regards Mina, which is to be substituted on their site for that of Tebuk.

The commission of inspection appointed by the board in March, as stated above, did not proceed to Arabia, at the time it was vaguely said that it would go in the autumn or early in the winter, but in December but little information in writing (January 1911) had been received, and now, a year after the original proposal was made, there has been no sign of its departure or even of its existence. For which precedent is unfortunately only too characteristic of the methods adopted in most matters of the board.

Professor Musil, who originally estimated to carry out his mission for a sum of 10,000 francs (about £400 sterling), which it was expressly stated was to cover all expenses, has later granted himself additional sums of £T 150, making some £T 650 in all. It may be seriously doubted whether so extensive an addition to existing knowledge was ever before given by so parsimonious an expenditure of public funds.

The whole question of the sanitary defence of the Hedjaz Railway was dealt with in two interesting articles published by MM. Crendemenese and Borel in 1909 in the February and March numbers of the review, 'L'Hygiene générale et appliquée,' and in two articles published by Dr F. G. Chenow in the March and April numbers (1910) of the 'Revue d'Hygiene et de Police sanitaire.' The latter have since been reissued in pamphlet form. The opinion is widely held that no satisfactory solution of this question will be found until it has been the subject of deliberation in an international conference. The proposal to hold such a conference is referred to again in a later section of this report.

The Sanitation of Jeddah and other Hedjaz Towns.

As stated in the last annual report, a special committee of the board was appointed on the 27th March, 1909, to consider all the numerous and conflicting proposals that had been made on this subject. That committee met only once, and has made no report. The main question has since then passed through many phases, and is referred

to again below in the sections relating to the mixed commission. Briefly, the efforts to hold the board responsible for the internal sanitation of the Hedjaz towns, and to employ its funds for that purpose, have failed, while, on the other hand, serious representations to the Turkish Government as to their responsibility in the matter have succeeded, and in July last that Government created a special council—"le Conseil sanitaire du Hedjaz"—with powers to deal with the sanitation of the Hedjaz. This council was placed under the presidency of Ahmed Riza Bey, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, and it contains among its members two of the Turkish members of the Board of Health. At the same time the Porte addressed the foreign missions, asking their consent to the levying of a new tax of 10 piastres on each pilgrim entering the Hedjaz, in order to obtain funds to cover the cost of the new measures. His Majesty's Government and most of the other Governments concerned have consented to the levying of this tax for a period of five years and under certain other conditions, including the publication of an annual financial statement. It is hoped that the tax will be collected for the first time in the pilgrimage of 1911-12. In the meantime, for the pilgrimage of 1910-11, the Government voted a credit of £T 10,000 for the immediate execution of certain measures. These have included the dispatch to Jeddah and Mecca of two "portable" hospitals, each capable of holding 100 patients and fully equipped for immediate use, and the organisation of a sanitary service in the town of Jeddah. The Jeddah hospital is already open, and that at Mecca is expected to be shortly. In addition to the above sum of £T 10,000 the sum of 1o2,000 piastres voted annually for the sanitation of Mecca and the Hajj has been administered for that purpose by the same council. In the past this latter sum was supposed to be given annually to the Board of Health to be thus spent, yet, on the Malie's account, for the annual inspection sanitary mission to Mecca and the Hedjaz towns. Of recent years only a half or a quarter of this sum was ever received. The board had little actual control over its expenditure, though the item "Hygiène du Hedjaz" always figured in its account with the Maie. In the past year, however, it has been decided by the Government to entrust the sum to the newly created "Conseil sanitaire du Hedjaz," which will act as sterilizer for the future.

The above decisions and new arrangements may be regarded with satisfaction. The grave risk that would have attached to the board's undertaking arterial sanitary measures and using its funds for that purpose has thus been avoided while means have been provided for doing away with what had long constituted a scandal and a grave menace to the pilgrimage.

Penalties for Defaulting Pilgrim Ships.

The present code for despatches to be imposed on pilgrim ships infringing the regulations was, it will be recalled, approved in principle by the Board of Health in December 1909, while the scale of its application was left to a subsequent *entente* between the Porte and the missions. The matter has since been the subject of an exchange of notes, and it seems probable that a satisfactory solution will shortly be arrived at. The proposals of the Porte that the board of Health should have excessive powers in certain cases, with no appeal to a court of law, has not been accepted by the missions, and some other modifications in the procedure suggested are still under consideration.

Charges for Telegrams and Customs Dues.

Two decisions of the Turkish Government taken during the past year have caused a considerable addition to the board's expenditure. In May the Finance Minister informed the board that henceforth all telegrams sent by the sanitary administration in the French language, as also all cablegrams, would also be paid for. The latter had always been paid for in the past, but the former had been exempted from charge. This innovation, against which representations were found to be in vain, will probably prove to have increased the board's annual expenditure by some few thousands of pounds.

The second decision was one to charge customs dues on objects imported from abroad by the administration. In the past no such charge was made. As drugs, disinfectants, disinfecting stoves, distilling and other apparatus, portable buildings for lazarets and other costly objects are constantly being imported from abroad, the added burden on board's funds will probably prove to be considerable.

Turkey and the International Conventions

On the 17th May last a teskereh from the Grand Vizier was communicated to the board, in which it was stated that it proposed that the Turkish Government should adhere to the Paris Sanitary Convention of 1903, under the following reserves:

1. Articles 165–176 (changes in the Constantinople Board of Health, creation of consular commission for penalties on pilgrim ships, &c.), and article 180 (cost of sanitary station at Hormuz) were to be excluded.

2. The Board of Health was to be entrusted with the application of articles 151 to 164 (penalties on pilgrim ships). Further reserves were to be formulated later in regard to article 181 (International Health Bureau in Paris).

On the 10th August the Board was informed by a second teskereh that the Imperial sanction had been given to the above proposal and reserves, and a further reserve was added, that with regard to quarantine measures to be applied in Turkey, these should be based on the Egyptian "règlement." A draft "règlement," based on the latter, was also communicated to the board.

In November last Turkey signified her adhesion to the convention, subject to the above reserves, but the question of article 181 is still under discussion and the other Powers have not yet officially notified both other signatory Powers. For the present the Board continues, as in the past, to take special precautions in regard to quarantine measures, as each case arises, though it should be added that these precautions are now less severe than in accordance with the terms of the Paris convention than they were formerly.

In the summer the vice-president of the board, Dr. Djemal Shehabeddin Bey, proceeded to Cairo and Paris at the cost of the board, ostensibly as a preliminary to Turkey's adhering to the Paris convention of 1903, but really, it would now seem, to prepare the ground for a proposal to call another international conference. The objects to be chosen are the working precisely in the revision of the former convention, and the drawing up of provisions relating to the Trans-Siberian and Hedjaz Railways and to the navigation of international waterways. Dr. Djemal Bey stated on his return that the above proposal was very favourably received both in Italy and in France. Up to the time of writing, however, no definite proposal for such a conference has, so far as is known here, been made.

The Alexandria and Constantinople Boards of Health

Before proceeding to Europe the vice-president had made another journey to Alexandria, with the object of coming to an agreement with the Alexandria Board on certain questions. It is stated that the latter board agreed to the use, in case of epidemic, of the lazaret at present occupied by Hedjaz pilgrims in the month, and consequently of sanitary measures specified in Turkey (*mutatis mutandis*) and to recognise the certificates issued by the two countries. Each of these points, about which there was certainly room for difficulty to be apprehended, could quite easily have been settled by correspondence. The vice-president received, in all, nearly 50,000 piastres for his missions to Egypt and Europe. It is not easy to see on what grounds this expenditure of the board's funds can be justified.

The Malé and the Banco of Health

Under existing conventions the Turkish Government is responsible for certain categories of the board's expenditure, including the cost of construction, hire and repair of lazarets and other sanitary establishments. In former years sums were asked for from the Government for these purposes from time to time as occasion arose. There was always the greatest difficulty in obtaining the amounts required and the sums so recently advanced by the board for the Malé's account have accumulated till they constitute the main part of the total debt of the Malé, which amounts, in round figures, to £T 150,000. In each of the two years that have elapsed since the change of régime the board has been asked by the Malé to fix beforehand the sum required in the succeeding year, and on each occasion it asked for the round sum of 500,000 piastres for constructions and repairs, and 125,000 piastres for hire of sanitary offices. These sums were refused by the Malé in the budget presented to the Chamber of Deputies and approved by it. But for the financial year 1911–1912 the board found itself compelled—in consequence of the cholera epidemic and the urgent need of putting the lazarets in order—to ask for a sum of £T 15,000 (approximately). The Finance Minister has, however, refused to budget for this sum, as the sums only the former small sums in the coming budget, and openly hints that either the board's large accumulated reserve should be used for the purpose or that the lazarets should remain unrepaired. This is the position at the end of the year. The British delegate is personally of opinion that it is desirable to make use of the reserve, which now amounts to some £T 100,000, in part in putting in order the lazarets and partly in a substantial reduction of the sum by means of sinking, that is to say, that any annual deficiencies resulting from such deduction should be borne by the reserve, until by this means all excess of debt for the lazarets alone is reduced to a reasonable figure, to be fixed beforehand. When that moment is reached the dues should be fixed for the future at such a rate that they will yield neither to a fresh accumulation on the one hand or to a real deficiency on the other. The possibility of making some such proposal to the mixed commission is now under consideration.

The Mixed Commission for Tariff Revision

Early in the year Sir Hilton Wood once more appointed president of the mixed commission, and a new secretary, Mr. Carsenty, was also appointed.

Three commissions had been held during the year. At the first, under the Austrian delegate, proposals for the increase of the dues levied by the board for the sanitation of Jeddah, he rejected the decision taken by the commission at the preceding meeting, which had decreased itself incompetent to deal with this question and had agreed to recommend that the existing tax of 10 piastres on pilgrims and officers, part of which is essential to the board's ordinary sanitary work, should be diverted to the above-mentioned object. He stated that he would reserve it to take any further part in the commission's deliberations unless this question were settled to his satisfaction. The commission, however, carried out its business as usual. The Austrian delegate consequently took no further part in the subsequent sessions.

A report of the budget sub-commission was then read, in which certain reductions in the estimates of the budget were proposed. The difficulty of fixing receipts to meet expenditure had been found to be very great in the case of the sanitary council, which practically is merely an instrument to draw from the "guarantee" account. It was therefore proposed that the board should each year elect a budget committee which would advise for the succeeding year on the budget, which would be considered by the commission itself. It was decided by the meeting to print the report, and to adopt the less important of the proposals contained therein. Certain proposals for the amendment of the commission's regulations were then read and discussed, and a report thereon was ordered to be presented at the next meeting. Several questions of detail were then considered, and a report on the proposal for the consular consignment of locally accumulated merchandise through "Quarantine Complex" was read, proposing that therewith the board's accounts should be subject to its supervision. It was also decided to telegraph and refer to the heads of missions.

Customs.

It has been usual to devote a special section of these reports to the Turkish customs administration. The subject may, on the present occasion, be dealt with more briefly than usual. The work of reorganisation of many years, by Mr. (now Sir R. F.) Crawford at the beginning of 1909, proceeded steadily throughout 1910. The new regulations introduced by him in 1909 have proved satisfactory in practice. Merchants are compensated for the stricter control now exercised by the greater reasonableness displayed and the more businesslike methods employed by the administration. It is true that all the old abuses have by no means disappeared, especially from the local custom-houses. But the almost complete absence of specific complaints to the embassy during 1910 shows that the general position has greatly improved, and that such difficulties as do arise are readily settled, either by the authorities themselves, or with the assistance of consular officers without reference to head-quarters.

Steady if somewhat slow progress is being made with the task of improving the customs accommodation in the many places where it is urgently required. The reconstruction of the two great waterside custom-houses in Constantinople is a most

complete The dispute between the Beirout port company and the customs administration, which for some years stood in the way of any improvement in that place, was settled during 1910, and both the company and the administration are now proceeding with improvements which it is hoped will be complete in 1912 The new custom-house at Bassorah was reported some time ago to be on the point of completion. The necessary improvements at Bagdad have been hung up for a considerable time owing to a doubt as to the advisability of rebuilding on the old site in the centre of the city as was at first intended, and this embassy shares the responsibility for the delay, as it strongly urged the desirability of changing the site, at a moment when the arrangements for re-building on the old site were almost complete It now seems probable that the new buildings will be erected on the site advocated by the embassy, in accordance with the views of local British merchants, but the future of this scheme, as of most other things in Bagdad, must for the moment be regarded as uncertain There are certain other custom houses, e g , Salonica and Trebizonde, in the improvement of which the embassy has been specially interested since the 1907 negotiations, but since Sir R F Crawford's arrival it was not been considered advisable to press the administration unduly, for it is certain that efforts are being made to improve the administration throughout the whole Empire The budget of 1326 (March 1910 February 1911) set aside about £ T 70,000 for new buildings, and it is proposed to devote a similar sum to the same purpose in 1327 (March 1911 February 1912)

The customs revenue of the Empire has shown a steady increase since the revolution, as may be seen by the following figures taken from the budget for 1326, and the introductory statement of the budget for 1327 These figures are for import taxes only, including, of course, the surtax of 3 per cent which came into force in 1907, special customs duties having been abolished since 1908, and the yield of the export tax, which is still retained, being relatively insignificant.

	Piastres.
Import taxes (8 months)	3,77,2,88
,, (March 1910 February 1911)	4,92,43,000
Export taxes and [illegible]	8,67,000
Arrears [illegible]	2,50,00,000
Estimated import taxes for 12 March 1911 February 1912)	137,00,000

British Claims and Cases.

In the annual report for last year it was remarked that the decrease in contentious cases of a non-political kind, which followed the revolution of July 1908 had been sustained during 1909, but that it would be rash to be too confident of a permanent improvement in this respect The experience of 1910 has justified this reserve, for although the embassy has had to deal with few cases sufficiently important to deserve separate description, there has been a considerable number of minor cases requiring attention The provincial authorities in many places show an increasing tendency to take short cuts through the Capitulations, and while the Ministry of Justice to whom we presented observations to minimise as much as possible the effect of such infractions of treaty rights, the legal advisers of the Sublime Porte, who have the principal say in the matter when they become the subject of diplomatic representations, show themselves no less conservative than the most obstinately anti-foreign local officials That excessive respect for the people's will which disinclines local authorities to protect foreigners from the effect of popular movements like boycotts, and invasions of landed property, as also productive of complaint The continued existence of martial law in Constantinople occasionally leads to friction, the autocratic administration of the local authorities at Bagdad has given rise to some thorny cases, and in two recent instances the Porte and the local authorities alike have not hesitated to proclaim that the Capitulations do not operate in the holy cities of the Hedjaz

As regards pecuniary claims of British subjects on the Turkish Government, there has been little change since a year ago. The majority of claims then outstanding form part of the floating debt, and still remain unpaid in consequence A short time since the missions under reference to the Sublime Porte concerning the great delay in taking steps to liquidate the floating debt, and it was understood that a Bill dealing with it would be laid before Parliament this session, but as the total registered claims, after writing off considerable inter-departmental debts, still amounts to upwards of 10 millions, the actual payment of the debt must still appear

somewhat remote Of the other British claims outstanding a year ago the Berglaz five claims and the Adana cases still remain in abeyance The following claims old and new are still the subject of negotiations

1 *Claim for the Value of Hides Seized near Hodeidah* This is a claim for the value of hides, estimated at about 1,500, seized in June 1909 by a Turkish gun-boat in the Red Sea The hides were on board an Ottoman dhow and were said by the customs authorities of Hodeidah as contraband The seizure seems to have been technically justifiable unless it can be proved that the hides were seized outside territorial waters, and this is a question almost impossible to solve The embassy has exerted itself to bring about a compromise on a basis of charges, with the custom-house, which by the claimants would realise about 750, but the prospects of this arrangement are uncertain.

2 *Jeddah Robbery Claims* This is a claim in respect of robberies from merchants and pilgrims on the Hedjaz line in the course of 1908 Under the old regime such claims were met by the local authorities, and the embassy has been pressing since 1908 years past in the same way A correspondence is still going between the Porte and the local authorities

3 *"Hussenie" Piracy Claim* This is a claim in respect of the British ship "Hussenie" which was wrecked or looted by Arabs on the coast of Asir in June 1908 The claim for the ship and the British owned portion of the cargo amounts to about £ The claim was first put forward by Petre and Hay, when the Embassy asked that a commission might investigate the case, but assistance was refused The Porte's correspondence with the local authorities on the matter is not favourable to a speedy solution of the matter

4 *Ex Customs at Aqaba* This is a new claim for about £ 200, lost since 1906 by the Imperial Ottoman Bank agency at Aqaba owing to the refusal of the local authorities to recognise its exclusively local character The Porte has done what it can, but the embassy still presses the claim.

5 *Claim for Major Tyrrell and Lieutenant Neville for Injury to Person* This is a claim for £ 170 advanced by the Foreign Office to Major Tyrrell and Lieutenant Neville for gendarmerie in 1907 The Porte questions its liability for the travelling expenses of the officers in question, on the ground that they replaced a gendarmerie which had not completed their contracts The embassy has been pressing for a definite solution and the matter was recently referred to the Council of State which will be pressed to a decision when it has completed its business.

6 *Arnold Claim* This is a recent claim of £ 100 to £ for damages sustained by Mr Arnold, of Sidmouth owing to the seizure of his arms by peasants from a cross-Channel steamer, when the Turkish authorities took no measures to restrain The claim was made in March 1910, but was only towards the end of 1910 that they became objectionable and pleaded a good defence.

The following claims have been finally disposed of:—

1 *The Summers Claim* for money belonging to Mrs. Margaret Summers and stolen from the Persian consulate in 1907 The Government having, after protracted negotiations, admitted its liability, the money was duly paid to Mrs. Summers some years after the year ago

2 *The Claim for the Government of Northern Nigeria* for £ in moneys advanced to Turkish boat refugees in 1908 This claim, amounting to about £ 225 was settled in July 1910

Another cases, other than those involving money claims, were settled in the course of the year None of these were of sufficient importance to be mentioned Of those still pending the following may be selected for notice, as being typical or as having attracted more attention than the correspondence of non-political cases

1 *Taxation of Missionary Properties at Jerusalem* This was a special question relating to real property tax, claimed on portions of the property of the Anglican Bishopric, the London Jews' Society, and the Hospital of St John, illustrates the tendency noted in the last annual report, to restrict the privileges of foreigners as much as possible In the case of the Hospital of St John, the embassy has been able to satisfy the Porte that the great part of the property in question was expressly exempted under the old regime, and the claim has been waived The other two cases are still under discussion

2 *Arrears of Taxes Claimed from the Ottoman Gas Company, Smyrna.*—This company, which despite its name is an English chartered company, was founded over half a century ago under a concession which was renewed in 1897. The real property tax has never been collected on the ground occupied by the gas works, though it has occasionally been demanded. The authorities now claim the tax from the date of the foundation of the company, and have attached moneys due to it by the municipality. The company resists the claim on several grounds. The legal position is open to some doubt, and the embassy is considering the question whether to make the matter the subject of diplomatic representations or to promote an arbitration between the parties.

3 *The Menassa Case.* This case arises out of the bankruptcy of a Manchester firm named S. Ribau and Co., one of the partners in which, Mr. N. Menassa, resides in Beirut, where he owns certain real property. In order to secure the rights of the creditors against Menassa it has been necessary to institute proceedings against him in the Beirut courts [illegible] to recover sums amounting to some 24,000*l.*, and in connection with these proceedings it was sought to attach real estate to that value by proceedings in the civil court. The latter court having shown a disinclination to attach the property and powers having been [illegible] on behalf of Menassa, who was anxious to transfer the property to other persons, the embassy made representations to the Ministry of Justice. These appear to have had a successful effect, and a sufficient amount of the property to cover the total amount at stake has now been attached. The proceedings [illegible] must of course be allowed to follow the normal course.

4 *Expropriation at Beirut.*—In the latter part of 1910 numerous complaints arose as to the action of the Pasha [illegible] in expropriating and demolishing private property without [illegible] procedure [illegible] providing compensation [illegible]. Among the [illegible] victims of these proceedings were Messrs. [illegible].

Notwithstanding the representations made by His Majesty's consul-general [illegible] British property to the value of about 5,000*l.* [illegible] was expropriated or destroyed [illegible] to the central Government [illegible] for the year 1911.

5 *Dispute at Bassora.*—In [illegible] 1910 [illegible] with [illegible] Mohammerah [illegible] Bussorah [illegible] His Majesty's consul at Bassora [illegible] the consul [illegible] refused to assist and were [illegible] strongly supported by the [illegible] treaty, the Turkish Government [illegible] the embassy [illegible] His Majesty's consul at Bassorah [illegible] jurisdiction over [illegible] subjects [illegible] principle remains in abeyance [illegible] interesting as indicating the jealousy with which the [illegible] regard the extension of foreign jurisdiction in Turkey.

Of [illegible] cases which gave rise to diplomatic representations the most important which was settled in 1910 was that relating to the restrictions [illegible] representations [illegible] by His Majesty's Embassy [illegible] in the year. The most important [illegible] restrictions imposed [illegible] which was [illegible] the authorities. The restrictions [illegible] were imposed with [illegible] much [illegible] merchants, and the [illegible] was compelled to protest; but the predominance of the military element has raised questions and difficulties, and [illegible] still unsettled. Another matter which has been the subject of [illegible] is the state of the Port of Constantinople, which urgently requires improvement in many respects.

Legislative Work of Parliament.

The second session of the Turkish Parliament began on the 14th November, 1909, and ended on the 28th July, 1910. The hopes formed at the beginning of the new régime, that Parliament would speedily [illegible] what was anticipated and supply what

was missing in the existing system of law, received even less fulfilment in the second session than in the first. The country still awaits legislation of a large and comprehensive kind, such as new penal and commercial codes, new codes of procedure, new laws on [illegible] education. No [illegible] of the Chamber of Deputies [illegible] Bills [illegible] for unless the chamber displays more confidence in the departmental experts by whom Bills are drafted in the first instance [illegible] at length, it is difficult [illegible] passed into law. Only a short time ago a writer in the press seriously suggested that Parliament should suspend its sittings for two years, during which a small and select body should be left to elaborate a comprehensive and [illegible] system of laws.

The President of the Chamber, in his closing speech, announced that during the second session the Government had sent to the House 114 Bills, or 41 more than last year, and that the Chamber had completed the discussion of [illegible] as against 53 last year. An analysis of the Bills passed shows, however, how meagre in [illegible] the work of the session really was. The number of laws finally passed and duly promulgated was between 65 and 70. More than half of these were [illegible] with [illegible] providing in the majority of instances for matters [illegible] trivial, such as [illegible] in the budget and small supplementary credits which have been voted with comparative freedom. The most important single law of this kind was the finance law for the year 1326 (14th March, 1910 to 13th March, 1911), which besides providing for the budget of the year [illegible] more general character. It also provided that [illegible] forced labour on roads should, henceforward, be commuted for money payments, that internal passports [illegible] source of revenue, should be abolished, and that a number of small local taxes [illegible] be done away with. It also authorised the Minister of Finance to conclude a loan to cover the deficit in the budget, the [illegible] providing for this in very general terms.

Of the new finance laws [illegible] forty-four [illegible] further provision for [illegible] the [illegible] of 1909, [illegible] with military matters [illegible] very general [illegible] minor judicial reforms [illegible] agreement with the [illegible] Government [illegible] over the [illegible] the Bagdad Railway [illegible] concessions [illegible] and Soma-Panderma Railways [illegible] the agreement [illegible] for the construction of a short line of railway and roadway [illegible] with the concession [illegible] phosphates and of Salt [illegible]. Of the remaining laws [illegible] inconsiderable or merely transitory interest. The following, however, deserve separate mention:—

1 *Law on Public Accounts.* This law regulates the manner of drawing up the annual budget and provides machinery for the control of public accounts [illegible] The necessity of Parliamentary sanction for [illegible] in the budget and for supplementary expenditure is [illegible] The [illegible] system is [illegible] by provisions to the effect that [illegible] Ministry [illegible] the head [illegible] of each Government department, there shall be an accountant directly subordinate to the Ministry of Finance. Supreme [illegible] parliamentary control over expenditure is vested in a Cour des Comptes. The law acquired a temporary political interest some months after it was passed, owing to a conflict between the Minister of War and the Minister of Finance as to the extent to which the latter was entitled to control the internal finances of the department of the former.

2 *Law Concerning the Real Property Tax on Buildings.* This law provides machinery for the registration and valuation, for rating purposes, of all built-on property in the Empire, except in the holy cities. The valuation is to be effected by commissions on which the financial authorities and the public are both represented. An appeal lies to superior commissions similarly constituted, and there is a final appeal to a central commission at the Ministry of Finance. The tax is fixed at 12 per cent. of the gross letting value of the building, subject to a rebate of one-fourth in the case of mills, factories, and wooden houses occupied by their owners. Property worth less than about 2*l.* a-year is wholly exempted, and an abatement is allowed on properties worth up to about 10*l.* per annum. The register is to be revised

every ten years. The list of privileged exemptions is of some interest. Perpetual exemption is granted to mosques, churches, authorised schools and charitable institutions, and certain other kinds of property. Privileges already accorded to properties not exempt under the law are maintained, but new privileges of this kind are not to be granted in such cases, except by Act of Parliament. An exemption for a term of years is granted to new mills and factories, and to residences constructed for settling nomads and immigrants.

4. *Law on Concessions for Objects of Public Utility.*—This law, the enactment of which was provoked by the controversy over the Lynch concession, defines the limits within which the executive may grant concessions without reference to Parliament. The executive is empowered to grant concessions for objects of public utility, which do not impose financial obligations on the State, require the appropriation of public property, confer exemptions other than those specified in the law, relate to a public service coming within the scope of the budget, necessitate a change in existing laws, nor fall within the competence of local authorities. The law lays down rules concerning the expropriation of private property for the purposes of such concessions, the exemptions which the executive may grant to the concessionaires, and the conditions which may be made for the winding up of the concessions. It is provided that concessionaires shall, in all cases, be handed over to Turkish "sociétés anonymes" within a period to be fixed in the agreement, and that the number of foreigners to be employed in [illegible] posts and positions of authority shall be restricted. Another important article provides that laws and annexed conventions relating to concessions, requiring parliamentary sanction, shall be accepted or rejected as a whole by both Houses, or else sent back for modification with a statement of reasons, the object of this provision being to prevent Parliament from modifying agreements made between the Government and concessionaires, unless it is prepared to throw them out altogether. Concessions for mining, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and banking enterprises are excluded from the operation of the law.

5. *Law on Copyright.*—This law protects almost the widest possible range of intellectual products. Copyright may be secured by registration for a nominal fee at the Ministry or local department of Public Instruction. It holds good during the producer's lifetime, and for thirty years after death in the case of literary works and music, fifteen years in that of translations, and eight years in that of pictures, &c. Infringement of copyright is [illegible] punishable by fine and imprisonment in the case of [illegible] only in the case of importers or sellers of the [illegible] copy [illegible] for [illegible]. Publishers are restrained from altering works without the author's consent.

6. *Supplementary Law on the Reorganisation of Public Departments.*—This law was designed to allay the discontent caused by the operation of the law on [illegible] which was passed in the last session and the effects of which were disastrous, as it [illegible] in the last [illegible] report. The question was a burning one, where, [illegible] power [illegible] of his [illegible] was to bring in the [illegible] law, which [illegible] the Parliamentary interference provided for [illegible] complaint of disemployed officials, [illegible] allowances [illegible] during unemployment.

7. *Law on the Cultivation of Rice.*—This law prescribes the conditions subject to which rice may be grown, its object being to avert danger to the public health from [illegible] cultivation. The details of the law are of technical rather than general interest. Certain exemptions are made in favour of districts where rice has been grown *ab antiquo.*

7. *Law on Churches and Schools in Macedonia.*—This law was a political measure designed to terminate the quarrels over churches and schools between the adherents of the Greek Patriarchate and the Bulgarian Exarchate. In the case of villages, &c., of homogeneous population, the law recognises the right of the population to existing churches and schools, other than those founded by private owners of estates. It provides that in mixed villages, &c., existing churches and schools shall belong to the party which established them, unless that party constitutes less than one-third of the population, in which case the church or school shall be handed over to the majority, and the minority shall receive State assistance towards building a new church or school of its own. When there is more than one church or school, all having been founded by one party, that party shall have first choice, and the minority shall have what is left, except that where the party which established the churches, &c., forms less than one-third of the population, the right of choice shall be given to the majority. The operation of the law is limited to churches and schools in

dispute at the actual moment of its promulgation, including those used by both parties alternately. Future changes of the composition of the population are not to affect the ownership of churches and schools, and bodies of population effecting such changes must provide for their needs at their own expense. Quarrels relating to rent-producing property belonging to churches and schools, are referred to the ordinary tribunals for settlement. Provincial authorities are authorised to sanction the erection of churches to be built with State assistance under the law, an exception to the general rule that new churches require an Imperial decree.

8. *Law on Taxes due by Floating Debt Claimants.*—This is a short law, providing that persons having claims included in the floating debt of the Empire, shall be allowed to postpone payment of taxes due by them up to the amount of their claims, until such time as measures are taken for paying off the floating debt. The position of such claimants had been brought prominently to the public notice by the action of Said Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier and President of the Senate, in refusing to pay his taxes, on the ground that the treasury was his debtor as well as his creditor. The same law provides that arrears of taxes dating from before March 1908, may be paid off in annual instalments.

The third session of Parliament began on the 14th November 1910. It is worthy of notice that sixteen measures, almost all short laws dealing with finance, and several granting supplementary credits, were promulgated by the executive during the recess, under the article of the Constitution which empowers the Ministry to put in force measures urgently required while Parliament is not sitting, subject to ratification early in the following session.

THE TURKISH PRESS IN 1910

The year 1910 has seen little of that fierce press controversy which marked the opening months of 1909. The press law, as applied by the court martial, has restrained [illegible] the more violent sort of journalism, particularly when directed against [illegible] the Government and the Committee of Union and Progress. As a rule, the official view has been supported strongly by the "Tanin," and in a colourless fashion by such papers as the "Ikdam" and the "Yeni Gazette," while such opposition as there was found its chief vent in two newspapers, the "Sedai Millet" and the "Mudafaa." The career of the former was brought to an abrupt end by the murder of its editor, Ahmed Samim. The authors of the outrage, and the murderer of the editor of the "Serbesti," a year previously, were never discovered, but suspicion fell on the Committee of Union and Progress, partly because the [illegible] been a bitter critic of the Committee and the Government, and partly because [illegible] the publication of a letter written by Ahmed Samim a little before his death, stating that his life had been threatened as a result of his writings. This letter appeared in facsimile in [illegible] the "[illegible]," which was at once suppressed.

The "Mudafaa" [illegible] short but [illegible] course. [illegible] the press law allows a suppressed newspaper to reappear [illegible] a fresh name, a procedure [illegible] with [illegible] with great skill and tenacity. As the "Mechveret" it persisted for nearly a month, then it would appear under four different names in as many days, always publishing in a prominent position the order of the court martial suspending its immediate predecessor.

Shortly after the publication in its columns of an article on the political freemasonry of those in high places—"to be continued"—the editor and the responsible manager were arrested, and soon afterwards the paper finally collapsed with the flight to Egypt of a man who had written for it a violent attack on Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior.

The "Tanin" easily holds its place as the most influential Turkish paper. It stated definitely at one time that it had no connection with the Committee of Union and Progress, but its two leader writers, Hussein Jahid and Ismail Hakki, both deputies, are prominent members of the committee. As a rule, the editor, Hussein Jahid, defends the Cabinet with an enthusiasm not unusual in men contemplating their own actions, although on the Cretan question he tried to spur on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to take a stronger line. Towards the end of the year, Ismail Hakki, M.P. for Bagdad, who had been making a tour in Mesopotamia, began to write a series of articles for the "Tanin," in which he dealt with considerable freedom with questions affecting that part of the Turkish Empire.

On the whole, the Turkish press continues to advocate neutrality with regard to

the Triple Alliance and the Triple *Entente*, though there are moments when one side or the other will incur its displeasure. As instances of this may be mentioned, the violent storm of hostility aroused by the statement in the "Neue Freie Presse," a paper much quoted by the Turkish newspapers, to the effect that, owing to dynastic reasons, England would support Greece on the Cretan question, and the bitter invectives directed against France at the time of the failure of the loan negotiations. There is much less reluctance to discuss delicate problems of foreign policy than was noticed in the early days of the new regime, and such questions as Mr Roosevelt's speech in Cairo and the British ultimatum to Persia, were commented on with some freedom.

The colourless and carefully non-hostile policy of the "Ikdam" and the "Yeni Gazetta" is as carefully adopted by the "Sabah." The "Tasvir-i Efkiar" must also be considered as belonging to this class, when the meaning of its leading articles can be unravelled, though once or twice it has made vague sallies into the realities of life, as when it attacked Italian policy in Tripoli or spoke with approval of British administration in Egypt.

The "Kalem," a Turkish illustrated paper, is still appearing, although its boldness, which is adorned with a keen sense of humour, caused it to be suspended for a short time, and earned it a severe lecture on patriotism from the editor of the "Tanin," whose sense of humour suffers from atrophy. The chief cartoonist of the "Kalem" has recently founded another paper of the same type, which he calls after his pet-name, "Jem." The "Eshek," an illustrated paper in which a donkey endowed with the embarrassing gift of plain-speaking, supplied a sort of Greek chorus to all the cartoons, was suppressed after its first much-appreciated number.

No account of the Turkish press would be complete without a reference to an influential weekly, the "Sarat-i-Mustekim" ('Straight Path'). It is openly Pan-Islamic, and enjoys a large circulation in the Turkish religious world. Its most striking contribution to the journalism of the year was a "prayer for the soul of the hero Waganai." The 'Kuss-i-Millel" appeared, and was run on violently anti-European lines, but it appears to have expired after a short time.

Of the local papers published in languages other than Turkish, the "Osmanischer Lloyd" and the "Jeune Turc," both prophets of the new regime, call for some comment. The "Osmanischer Lloyd," which to a certain extent is the organ of the German Embassy, is edited by a converted Jew named Grunwald, who was formerly on the staff of the "Vossische Zeitung." Its general trend is to discredit the Triple *Entente*, and especially Russia and England, by reproducing and touching up any articles unfavourable to the Turks appearing in the Russian and English press. It seems to have a preference for the distortion of facts, and even fabrications, to suit its purpose. Its news is frequently reproduced by the "Tanin," and as a considerable number of Turkish officers read German it aims at influencing their minds, and, through them, that of the Turkish army, in favour of Austria Germany and against Russia and England. The "Jeune Turc" seems to have the dual character of a Sionist organ and the organ in French of the advanced ideas of the Committee of Union and Progress. Its nominal proprietor is Samuel Hochberg, a German Jew from Hamburg, who was formerly professor in the schools of the Alliance israélite universelle at Mosul, Ispahan, and other places. He has altered his first name into the Moslem form of 'Sami." The paper is financed by the Sionist institution called the Anglo-Palestine Trading Company, registered in England, and an offshoot of the "J.C.A." or Jadaic Colonisation Association. On its staff it has Polish Jews, Caucasian, Moslem, and Armenian revolutionaries, Cretans, *et hoc genus omne*. It is mainly anti Russian in matters of foreign policy, and, in a secondary degree, anti-Triple *Entente*. It is also Pan-Islamist, and seems to delight in anti-Christian or anti-European articles in matters connected with Egypt, Persia, Central Asia, Arabia, &c. It is consequently anti-English, and does not draw the line at accuracy or the truth. In fact, it affects malicious inventions or gross distortions of facts. It has frequent articles on the benefits likely to accrue to Turkey from wholesale Jewish immigration, especially in Mesopotamia, where it never ceases to harp on the designs of *perfide Albion* in the shape of Sir William Willcocks's machinations.

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TURKEY.

Annual Report, 1911.

[4966]

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey. —(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 100)

Sir, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1912.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the annual report on Turkey for the year 1911.

I am much indebted to the members of my staff for their assistance in compiling this report, and also to Commander C. A. Wrightson, R.N., of H.M.S. "Imogene," who has furnished me with the report on the Turkish navy, and to Dr. Clemow, who has written the section dealing with sanitary affairs.

I have, &c.

GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure.

Annual Report on Turkey for the year 1911.

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Internal Affairs

In my report for the year 1910 I endeavoured to show how moderate had been the success of Young Turkey under the guiding influence of the Committee of Union and Progress. During that year its members still surrounded themselves with a certain shroud of mystery, and the spurious freemasonry which they at first used was no doubt of much service to them. During the year 1911 the guiding influence of that committee came more and more into the open, but it cannot be said that on the whole the year has been internally a successful one for Young Turkey, and externally it has been disastrous.

The same faults in external administration that characterised the early days of constitutional Government have continued, a mistaken policy as before pursued, namely that of obliterating the national sentiments and rights of the non-Turkish peoples and endeavouring to form and impose by force an artificial Turco-Ottoman nation under the name of Ottomanism.

The doctrine of equality of races was constantly affirmed in theory but as constantly ignored in practice.

The early months of the year were occupied with interminable dissensions in the committee itself, bitterness of disagreement finally accusing their opponents of a desire to overturn the constitution. The struggle was between the Radical and Conservative elements of the committee, but on both sides those who had obtained the spoil on the part of those who had not seemed to be the prevailing tendency.

In the early days of January relations between the Committee party and the Opposition were embittered by charges of treachery by officials of the Deputy Riza Nour.

The new Liberal party which had somewhat distinguished the party of Union and Progress was kept alive by Ismail Hakki Babanzade's articles in the "Tanin" dealing with Mesopotamia and Kurdistan, which were evidently intended to induce the public to believe that Great Britain had designs on those provinces. The Ministers endeavoured to minimise the importance of these articles by declaring that they were meant rather to educate the public as to the situation in that part of the Empire where there was a total want of Turkish intelligence, than to be an attack on Great Britain.

Some slight opposition however appeared to develop to placate England and France, such as certain vague suggestions as to the settlement of the Bagdad Railway question and the evident hostility to the British companies in the matter of the purchase of vessels, and the expulsion by the Ministry of Mr. Dellis, the returning officer of the Ottoman Bank and his successor, Mr. Lacon.

Rumours of insurrection in the Albanian provinces caused the Government to make peaceful overtures for pacification on the part of the Sultan to those provinces. It was hoped this would thereby have a good effect on the condition of affairs in Albania, but would postpone and check the internal dissensions in the Committee party, which were about to become popular.

Towards the end of February the internal struggles of the committee became more apparent, but although it was impossible to see through the various cross currents of internal politics, it became certain that the more violent sections of the committee were losing ground.

The result of this was the withdrawal of Talaat Bey, the argument being that as Minister of the Interior he was responsible for the policy of "Turkification," the unfortunate results of which in Albania, Macedonia, Arabia and Syria have had so much to do with the loss of prestige to the committee at home and abroad.

Talaat Bey was succeeded by Halil Bey, whose place he took as leader in the Chamber of the Committee party, a position which he immediately resigned, being succeeded by Sadik Bey, a deputy not too closely connected with the Salonica group.

A meeting of the Parliamentary party of the committee drew up a programme of ten articles, the principal of which were that deputies of the Committee party should not

seek concessions or official appointments, and that even when accepting Cabinet posts they should be supported by two-thirds of their party, that the party should work for reunion of the races in the Empire, and that it should respect the national and religious usages while aiming at western civilisation, and secret societies should be discouraged.

In fact the sacrifice of Talaat was inadequate, and the resolutions were framed to secure the downfall of his close associates, Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, and Ismail Hakki Babanzade, both of whom were identified with the political masonry that had recently assumed such large proportions.

The committee then came out of the conflict with its power unimpaired, but with its more Conservative elements in the ascendant.

Djavid Bey had lost much of his popularity, in part through the abrupt manner in which he had conducted the loan negotiations with France which led to failure, and partly through his renewed support of Zionism, which caused alarm in some quarters here when it was thought that the inward intentions of this society were to found a state within the Turkish Empire. Moreover Djavid Bey and the Minister of War were certainly in conflict over the expenditure of the military budget, and the military influence was still too strong to admit of a victory on the part of the Minister of Finance.

Djavid Bey and Ismail Hakki then retired, attributing their retirement to the confusion existing in the party and the consequent impossibility of advancing their mission. Djavid Bey was succeeded by Nail Bey, a moderate member of the same party, who, though enjoying a good reputation for honesty, was considered hardly to possess sufficient energy to cope with the situation.

In May, Colonel Sadik Bey, one of the most influential but at the same time modest authors of the revolution of 1908, who has since become an active member of the Opposition, came to the fore, and began to show signs of such activity that the committee demanded his removal from the capital, where he had recently been appointed Inspector-General of Cavalry at the Ministry of War, and were successful in obtaining it. The colonel shortly afterwards was compelled to leave the army and became an active politician, declaring his programme to be the non-intervention of officers in politics and hostility to the introduction of freemasonry in the army as a political instrument.

The session of the Chamber closed early in June after a severe conflict with the Senate over the question of the latter's constitutional right to amend the budget against the will of the Lower Chamber.

The Sultan's visit to Macedonia went off without incident, but on the whole was an unqualified success.

The committee exerted itself beyond measure to prove that its power was still in the ascendant, and that the Cabinet was really a committee cabinet. Djavid Bey, although no longer a minister, was invited to accompany His Majesty. The Committee of Union and Progress no doubt by taking a prominent part in all the receptions and official functions hoped to gain some credit for the Cabinet's new departure in the direction of clemency, and so stop the defection of the old adherents of the committee to the side of the Moderates.

The greatest efforts were made throughout the tour to put forward His Majesty as a real factor in the Empire, the intention being to give the lie to the assertion so generally made against the committee that its policy aimed at debasing the authority of the Sultan and Caliph. Outwardly the new or moderate section of the committee, however, appeared to be gaining little ground. The old committee had several circumstances in their favour. They were fairly united and homogeneous, had a definite aim in view, and had command of the committee's considerable funds and organisation all over the country. They further were entirely unscrupulous and, being credited with intentions of stopping at nothing, even the employment of hired assassins, there was a strong deterrent to joining the ranks against them. The Moderates, while perhaps having the sympathy of the general public had no special programme beyond that of breaking the power of the Salonica element. But Colonel Sadik Bey began to exert himself in forming a party which came into official existence in November.

In the provinces, however, the influence of the Salonica committee was distinctly on the wane, and with the object of counteracting this as a measure Djavid Bey undertook a somewhat hasty tour through some of the Anatolian provinces in which, however, his success does not seem to have been very marked.

The last days of the parliamentary session in June were signalised by a violent dispute with the Senate concerning military pensions.

In the early summer the public prosecutor at Monastir was assassinated immediately

after he had received orders to proceed against certain local papers, and public opinion was fairly unanimous that the crime should be laid at the door of the Salonica committee. In July a similar crime took place, Zeki Bey, a vigorous writer in the opposition press, being murdered near Constantinople. The trial of the suspected murderers is still proceeding, and the matter has aroused the greatest interest owing to the revelations made as to the methods of the committee. The latter thought fit to issue an official denial of any association with the crime.

As the date for the meeting of Parliament approached, rumours were rife as to a change not only of the Grand Vizier but of several members of his Cabinet, the most unlikely combinations being quite seriously put forward. The moderates looked to Kiamil Pasha as their Grand Vizier, but he steadfastly maintained the position he had always taken up, that he would not take office as long as the dictation of the committee continued to exist.

Rifaat Pasha succeeded the Paris Embassy on the death of Nazim Pasha, but the Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, who was generally credited with the ambition of an appointment as Ambassador, was less fortunate and was compelled to resign on the declaration of war by Italy, his Highness being to a great extent held responsible for the power that brought about the war. He was succeeded by Said Pasha, who was generally credited with having acted as the committee's adviser during the preceding weeks and with being now its nominee, and in view of a considerable opposition existing to the retention of their portfolios by Ministers who were regarded as responsible for the war, his Highness had considerable difficulty in forming a Cabinet, in spite of his personal popularity and prestige. Moreover, any public opinion turned strongly against the committee, who were regarded as in a great measure responsible for the war, thanks to their policy which had alienated the Powers from Young Turkey, but their position was weakened and divided. The committee wisely issued a manifesto throughout the country urging the necessity of keeping order and of supporting and co-operating with the Government.

The warame as a shock to the nation as a great surprise, and in its early days all hoped for some peaceful solution that might be regarded as honourable. When this was not forthcoming, resistance to the end was the universal cry, and this cry appeared to become more intense as the war went on, more especially as for some months after the most exaggerated reports of Turkish successes were published throughout the country.

The bad situation in the country was divulged, some laying all the blame on Germany, who was regarded as having betrayed her friend, as she must have been fully aware of Italy's designs, some even crying the Hakki Pasha of gross neglect in not providing for the proper defence of Tripoli.

Said Pasha now obtained a vote of confidence by promising to recast his Cabinet at an early date, but it was evident from the first days of his Grand Vizierate that this was the result of the necessities of the situation rather than of any real enthusiasm for him or his Government.

Groping about, as it were, for a policy, Said Pasha in his public declarations hinted that the policy of isolation by good friends with all must be abandoned and his Highness appeared to be prepared to form an alliance for Turkey with the highest bidder amongst the foreign Powers, but such tentative offers as his Highness made to this end did not seem to have met with any encouragement.

In internal politics there again loomed up large the momentous national question, namely, the all but attempt of the court martial to arrest both Ferid, a member of Parliament, an endeavour was made to get rid of Mahmoud Shevket. This however failed, though there is little doubt that the Minister emerged from the ordeal, in which he practically declared his adherence to the Committee of Union and Progress, with his popularity somewhat diminished.

Some stir was caused by the distribution throughout Macedonia of a manifesto by the Bulgarian "Interim Organisation," containing various threats as to what would occur in view of the late treatment meted out to the Christian population, and with a view to bringing about the autonomy of Macedonia.

It was impossible to ascertain the origin of this document, but indications point to its having been produced in Bulgaria. Its appearance was promptly followed by bomb-throwing in several places. One incident at Islib, where a bomb was thrown causing the death of some few Moslems, was immediately followed by an attack on the Christian population of the town by Moslems, in which the civil authorities exhibited their usual supineness, though the military authorities, when eventually called in, showed considerable activity.

Towards the end of November, the politicians who throughout the year had been

opposing the Committee of Union and Progress finally formed themselves into a political association under the name of "Liberté et Entente," and came into official existence.

Its programme, though voluminous, was not striking, and the fact that the reference to the necessity for the union of the races of the Empire occupied an unimportant position in the programme did not inspire much confidence amongst the Christian elements. Moreover the names of the leaders of the party did not command much respect, but the fact that Kiamil Pasha was supposed to be in entire sympathy with the party, though his name did not appear, added much to its importance, and it obtained an early success by securing at Constantinople itself a victory in gaining the seat against the Union and Progress candidate.

The last weeks of the year were occupied with an important constitutional question to the exclusion of all other matters. The committee congress at Salonica in September had decided that article 35 of the constitution must be modified. By the constitution the Sultan may, in the event of a continued dispute between the Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies, dissolve the Chamber should the Senate give its consent. The committee, anxious to force a dissolution while it was still powerful in the country, pronounced in favour of the abolition of the senatorial veto. Said Pasha, using as a pretext the possibility of concluding peace with Italy more easily accomplished if Parliament were not sitting—but in any case convinced that with the present Chamber all legislation is surrounded with almost insuperable difficulties, produced a proposal for the modification in question which would enable him to dissolve Parliament in agreement with the Sultan in the event of a formal and repeated refusal of the Chamber to agree with the Cabinet. But the proposal aroused all the most bitter feelings on both sides to such an extent that it was thought desirable to endeavour for a time to sink all differences and bring into power a colourless Cabinet. These attempts, however, failed, and the year closes without any decision having been arrived at on the constitutional problem. Although the question was submitted to Parliament, the Opposition abstained, and there was no quorum. The Grand Vizier, regarding this as a defeat, presented his resignation to the Sultan, but was immediately invited again to form a new Cabinet.

To sum up the result of the year for the Empire and its inhabitants, and for the future of constitutional government therein can be but little doubt that the result is a disappointment even to those who have been most optimistic, and it is not unusual to meet Turks who express themselves as being reduced to a condition of despair as to their country. The administration does not seem to have been improved. Ministries remain disorganised and intrigue rampant. Officials in the interior are divided between chauvinists who desire to give evidence of their patriotism by vexatious proceedings against foreigners, and others who for services rendered to the party have reaped their reward, but who, owing to their inexperience, have developed none of the qualities required for administration. I do not desire to go so far as to say that the members of the Cabinet themselves did not wish to see an improvement, but they have not carried sufficient weight to admit of their orders being properly carried out, and they have often been hampered by the secret action of the committee. But their policy in such impartial quest ons as those of the Yemen, the Hejaz, and Albania has brought much trouble on the Empire. The "levelling" tendency and the apparent impossibility of keeping engagements made to their people have produced a want of confidence which has shaken the foundations of constitutional government, and it is not unusual to hear the declaration that matters are no better than in the days of Abdul Hamid, a feeling encouraged by the fact that persons holding ideas strongly opposed to those of the committee have met with violent deaths, the authors invariably remaining unpunished. Thus, it is devoutly to be hoped, is an exaggeration, but it has become clear that the period of apprenticeship in the new direction must be long. Little aptitude has been shown on the part of members for assimilating themselves to parliamentary government. The position of deputy appears to be sought in the hope, not as yet often realised, either of a seat in the Cabinet or of obtaining the grant of some concession, and the younger element has shown itself specially sterile in the production of men capable of filling important offices.

Foreign Policy of the Ottoman Government.

To the general observer and listener the policy of the Turkish Government during, in any case, the first nine months of the year, seemed to be directed towards discontenting all the Powers and contenting none. This was no doubt the result of a desire on the part of this country to observe a strict impartiality towards the Powers, and to have no entangling alliances until the balance of power in Europe was less even, when,

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no doubt, Turkey would by a masterful stroke throw in her lot with the stronger side The general policy of Turkey, as officially defined by Rifaat Pasha in a debate on foreign affairs, was that the Government reaffirmed their previous declaration that its friendly dispositions towards all Powers are reciprocated and that Turkey does not lean towards the Triple Alliance more than to the other Great Powers

Yet for various reasons their desire to appear as holding an even balance between the two groupings of Powers failed, and the net result of the year for this Government has been that an impression was left on the public mind both inside and outside Turkey, that while perhaps the Cabinet wished to be absolutely neutral, the power behind the Government was favouring Germany A curious feature, however, is that the representatives of the latter country were throughout the year quite as discontented with the action of the Turkish Government as those of other Powers But the fact remains that Germany, in return for a qualified abandonment of certain rights in the terminal section of the Bagdad Railway, obtained a very valuable concession

It is true that Turkey has had but little time to devote to a development of a general foreign policy The bitter hatreds, jealousies, and suspicions that were aroused by the events of 1909 have by no means subsided In effect the results of those events spelt ruin to many families The desire, which by no means disappeared under the new regime, to occupy the position of a Government employé, created parasites who reacted unfavourably on a satisfactory reform of the administration and not only impeded in many ways the development of the internal resources of the country but created a mistrust abroad which was far from encouraging foreign Powers to put money into the new regime

As a result, foreign capital was ascertained in the internal troubles, the suppression of which occupied the army for a large part of the year, and as at the time it was hard to find a pretext for saying a word on any other Power, responsibility for the two rebellions in South-West Arabia was fastened on us But the accusations fell flat.

In the Adana massacre campaign however, Turkey came at moments very near a conflict with Montenegro, and the suspicions of the country were deeply aroused against both Austria and Italy

Turkey's relations with Italy have from the early part of the year been considerably strained, and have ended with a definite rupture of hostilities.

The net result has been that Turkey has found that she has no sincere friend, and while she looks to get from us, in the last resort, help or Germany if her quarrels with Italy became acute, she has been grievously disappointed

Turkey appears to be unable to realise that what is essential to her welfare is a frank and absolute abandonment of those overseas possessions which she is unable to develop even to protect, and that it is useless to endeavour to maintain a shadowy suzerainty where no practical one exists It is evident that it requires some political courage to adopt such a heroic policy With Tripoli and Crete gone, Turkey would undoubtedly be stronger as she would be self-contained And further, she would be able to concentrate her attention on internal regeneration But whether she will ever be wise enough to do so remains to be seen

Anglo-Turkish Relations

It can be said that the policy of the Turkish Government towards Great Britain during the past year has been a very friendly one It is true that our complaints against it have not been of a very serious nature. As regards Egypt, the Turkish Government has remained passive the intrigues with the Nationalist party having practically ceased and the political crimes that have been committed have been dictated more by the power behind the Government, viz., the Committee of Union and Progress, and not, I believe, really endorsed by the majority of the members of the Government We have been the victims of the fact that there has been no Government worthy of the name. It has existed on sufferance and represented nothing in particular, but always had behind it a section of the Committee of Union and Progress, which exercised a certain terrorism over all its actions

We have been obstructed in small matters in the same way that all other Powers have been, and our main causes of complaint have, perhaps, centred on Bagdad and the Persian Gulf The loss to the Empire of the Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Eastern Roumelia not unnaturally created a condition of extreme suspicion in the minds of the Turks in every direction where the integrity of the Empire might be endangered, and in the Persian Gulf question ultra patriotic governors of the new type of politician were over anxious to give proof to their masters and to Parliament of their

practical activity in the interests of the Empire. The Government, unfortunately, were never strong enough to nip these efforts in the bud, and adopted the vacillating and procrastinating habits of the old régime. It was hoped that the appointment of Nazim Pasha, a declared Anglophile, to Bagdad would be the signal for an initiation of a more conciliatory policy However, he was, like his predecessor of the first constitution, Midhat Pasha, anxious to prove his modernism by a great improvement of the town and was led by his subordinates into illegal acts in the direction of destruction of buildings, without the proper formalities, which happened to belong to British subjects

The matter has since been set right by the payment in full of the claims without any examination of the sums claimed.

The Bagdad Railway question, which is dealt with fully elsewhere, is naturally a constant bone of contention But the desire of the military element to see railways built at any cost has been a factor strongly in favour of Germany, and the mention of the "control" of Great Britain in the last section has aroused considerable suspicion

Protestations of amity on behalf of the Government of Turkey for Great Britain continued, but in the early part of the year Rifaat Pasha complained that the policy of Great Britain towards this country was one of sulking, and in this connection he declared that he wished to clear up this atmosphere of distrust and eventually proceed the proposals regarding the final section of the Bagdad Railway

England generally has been expected to lead the way in the matter of concessions of an economic nature to Turkey to enable her to carry out the reforms in her administration which are so much pressed upon her by Great Britain. The Bagdad Railway has stood in the way of contenting Turkey in that direction In the matter of the tenette we have likewise been unyielding, and she considers it unreasonable of us not to give way on these matters which would give her the practical means of internal reforms for which we clamour

During the troubles in Albania when undoubtedly brutalities occurred, we were not slow to point them out, and, no doubt, did not minimise them The majority of the other Powers remained silent, and it is difficult for Turks to understand that they cannot use the weapons they propose to exact taxation and to punish rebellion

But there is more indication to understand our attitude, and a prominent Turkish statesman recently used the following language to me regarding Albania He said

> "From a recent journey in England I came to understand your attitude more than I had done hitherto. You do not so much resent our using strong measures against a recalcitrant population which refuses to pay taxes and do military service, and you realise that in quelling the rebellions that ensue innocent people must suffer and villages may be burned But what you will not tolerate is that when your eye-witnesses have seen these things occur we should deny that they ever took place"

It was partly due to this better understanding, as to the growing conviction of the value of our friendship born of the consciousness that there must be something wrong with a system of foreign policy that had got Turkey into hot water all round, that the German attempts to make capital out of the tentative suggestion of His Majesty's Government for collective action to bring about a settlement of the Montenegrin imbroglio fell so flat For the proposal, brought to a head on the 14th by the new Albanian refusal of Germany to join in it, was very deeply resented here, as implying that we considered Turkey to be no more capable under the new regime than under the Hamidian despotism of managing her own internal affairs without the supervision of Europe

Turks of all shades, imbued with an undying hatred and suspicion of Russia, naturally resent our understanding with that country over Persia, and the one idea which is deeply impressed in the minds of all is that any understanding of this nature can be only of a temporary character.

After the declaration of war by Italy, in which the assistance of Germany had been found wanting, Turkey, as usual when in difficulties, turned to England in the hope that she would not desert her and would find a means of stopping the war In a flash an alliance with England was on the lips of all, without any thought of what Turkey would give in return, and with an utter disregard of actual political arrangements or of existing declarations of neutrality The new Grand Vizier in his declaration of policy to the Chamber on taking office practically put Turkey up to the highest bidder. These efforts of forming an alliance have of course fallen on barren ground, but the country undoubtedly has still strong sympathies towards Great Britain, and the party which has

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recently been formed in a measure bases its future on possible political support from us The influence that their probable Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha, should the party ever come into power exercises in England is greatly exaggerated and undoubtedly has induced many of its supporters to join the ranks.

While the Cabinet of Said Pasha, though still a Cabinet supported by the Committee of Union and Progress, has shown a more marked desire to be agreeable to Great Britain in the settlement of small differences, the main questions in dispute have not yet been dealt with. Excuses must be made considering the fact of the war with Italy, internal differences and the question of the Straits raised by Russia. In this latter question Turkey almost entirely looked to England to help her in resisting the granting of a concession which to the overwhelming majority of the country is regarded as quite unacceptable. Turkish public opinion was also somewhat disappointed at finding that the declared neutrality of Great Britain resulted in the stopping of the passage through Egypt of men, arms and ammunition, while Germany and Austria, the declared allies of Italy, made no difficulty whatever in supplying these to Turkey.

In general business and trade matters it cannot, I think, be said that we have been badly treated. The vexatious delays in payment for goods, the granting of concessions, &c., are common to all but with patience a solution is usually found.

A suspicion arose at one moment under the previous Government to the present one that there was a desire to substitute German naval officers for the British.

This arose from a desire on the part of the Minister of Marine to introduce torpedo officers more really acquainted with the German torpedoes than our officers, but was promptly set right on its being made clear to them that the change would not be well viewed by us.

The decision to purchase a Dreadnought in England was taken after interminable intrigues occasioned partly by unscrupulous motives and partly by a desire to obtain the best article at the cheapest price, and it was generally regarded as a triumph for the pro-English party in the country.

Germany.

After a period of self effacement here Germany has during the past year become somewhat more active. Adepts in taking advantage of the methods that obtained during the Hamidian regime, her agents were not slow to realise that the Committee of Union and Progress employed the same system as did the ex-Sultan and the policy of the German Government followed somewhat similar lines, and they gradually came to be regarded as the friend and supporter of the Committee, although the embassy was by no means inclined to praise that body or to find any good in the Government of Young Turkey. The policy of the Committee of Union and Progress, however, has distinctly been in favour of a rapprochement with Germany, though the Government has frequently declared that it was desirous to show no more favour to that country than to any other.

Facts, however, tell in favour of Germany, for she was successful in obtaining the valuable concession of the branch line to Alexandretta and the building and working of that port without any appreciable sacrifice on her part. This matter is dealt with at length in the Bagdad Railway section.

Two observations made by Mahmoud Shevket, the Minister of War, would in a certain measure explain this success.

"The worst railways possible are better for Turkey than none at all," and, "we cannot risk incurring the displeasure of Germany by granting a railway concession to the Americans."

Those arguments, together with the fact that M. Huguenin, the very able manager of the Anatolian Railway, who is a past master at the methods for obtaining concessions, obviously worked in favour of Germany. Furthermore, Hakki Pasha, who was Grand Vizier throughout the year, was, and I think justly, regarded as having strong pro-German proclivities.

The publication in the "Evening Times" early in January of the Russo-German Potsdam agreement was a disagreeable surprise to this country it being asserted that Germany had sacrificed both Turkish and Persian interests to Russia. Explanations were immediately asked of Germany whose Ambassador was not slow to explain verbally that the arrangement concerned exclusively the construction and linking up of railways in Persian territory, and that no negotiations concerning Mesopotamia would take place without Turkey being consulted.

Later on some attacks were made in the Chamber on the Government for its too-

German policy, but Rifaat Pasha declared categorically that the Government was entirely unbiassed.

When the Russo-German agreement was eventually published in September, the Government press showed some scepticism as to whether there were not some secret clauses, but on the whole there seemed to be a conspiracy of silence which appeared to indicate a desire to cloak the general chagrin over a bargain which Germany had had no part in effecting.

But the Italian ultimatum and the failure on the part of Germany in any way to come to the help of Turkey proved the greatest disappointment to the friends of Germany in this country, and for a time the view was strongly expressed that Turkey had made a great blunder in having given Germany her friendship.

In reply to an appeal for intervention the Emperor was stated to have replied that the existence of an alliance with Italy made method impossible and advised Turkey to bow to the inevitable. For some weeks the conduct of Germany was considered almost as reprehensible as that of Italy, and the fact that she took over the charge of Italian interests was regarded almost in the light of an unfriendly act. Moreover stories were freely put about, and believed, that Germany had through her Ambassador given the Grand Vizier to understand that Italy did not contemplate any attack on this country. It does not seem likely that Baron Marschall, who only arrived here a few days before the delivery of the ultimatum, should have gone so far, but I can readily believe that the Chargé d'affaires expressed himself much to that sense. From all appearances here it would seem that Baron Marschall was taken by surprise by the action of Italy.

Turning to the other Powers and meeting with an equally small amount of sympathy, the resentment felt by Turkey against Germany gradually cooled down again, and thanks to the strong expressions of sympathy given by the embassy and by all Germans here, to the flattering comments published by Marshal von der Goltz Pasha on the prowess and prospects of the Turks at the seat of war, and to the valuable assistance rendered to this country in furnishing arms and ammunition and munitions, Germany may be said, in the absence of other sympathy, to have been practically restored to her former position here.

France.

The coolness which was the result of the failure in the previous year of the French Minister to obtain a loan in France, and its eventual conclusion in Germany, continued throughout the year, though it was clear that Turkey was determined not to be so unwise as to quarrel with her bankers, and M. Ravon, on behalf of the Ottoman Bank, concluded an arrangement with the French Minister which, while to the advantage of the Ottoman Government, afforded evidence that France was disposed when necessary to enter into friendly negotiations for financial assistance. This has not yet become necessary.

In ordinary business matters France has received her share of the spoils, receiving orders for six small gunboats and for 72 mountain guns.

The concession for a vast scheme of road building throughout the Empire was also given to France, but the country has been unable to pay for these works out of the ordinary budget, and the Chamber authorised the contract to a maximum of £T.2,500,000 in order to pay for a portion of these roads. The French also received the contract for the building of the Hodeidah-Sanaa line.

A provisional contract was signed as well for a considerable section of lines in Albania and in northern Anatolia, but the eventual provision of the means for the payment for these wasted railways has not yet been decided upon. At the same time a provisional contract was granted to an English group for the construction of the ports of Samsoun and Trebizond. This caused some resentment amongst the French who appeared to consider that contracts should be exclusively reserved for them.

Politically, France has not played any special rôle here during the past year. But some feeling was raised against her as against other Powers when it became clear that Turkey and Italy were to be left to face each other alone and that no help was to be expected from France. As the war progressed, indications were not wanting that the declaration of neutrality was interpreted as favouring Italy to the disadvantage of Turkey and the sympathy of the public, if not of the Government, inclined towards Italy. Moreover the passage of individuals and of some arms through Italy was stopped much to the annoyance of Turkey.

With the fall of Hakki Pasha, French diplomacy gave the impression that the new Cabinet might produce a reaction in favour of a pro-English policy from which France and Russia might benefit. The French Ambassador is, however, always very pessimistic

as to this country ever having any real leaning towards the *entente* powers, and considers that whatever happens Turkey will always fall back into the arms of Germany.

Russia

The relations between Turkey and Russia have throughout the year remained correct, but tempered by the old spirit of every Turk for the political ambitions of Russia to the disadvantage of this country have in no way diminished.

Considerable feeling was felt against Russia. Matters relations were strained between Montenegro and Turkey owing to the encouragement given to Albanians by Montenegro. The Russian Ambassador was instructed to ask the Turkish Government to state what hostile intentions against Montenegro. A good deal was made of this communication by the Press, but owing to the reserve in which it was conveyed by M. Tcharykow it was not resented by the Ottoman Government, although the fact that the terms of the communication was published at St. Petersburg before it was actually made there created rather a bad impression.

The Government taken by Russia during the crisis has been one of pronounced support of the words of the new regime, but this support seems to have been less eager. M. Tcharykow, who is nothing if not astute, has gradually worked himself into a position to be possible to extract certain advantages to Turkey to obtain the right of passage through the Straits of several vessels of war, and immediately after Servia declared to open hostilities against Germany and Austria a series of suggestions with this object in view was put forward. Constantinople to Turkey and to maintain the *status quo* in the Balkans, but Russia would not consent to certain conditions about the right she had obtained in 1914 for building certain railways in northern Anatolia at the expense of other foreign Powers. The rest of the scheme has been kept secret, and the Grand Vizier gave a reply of a non-committal character. The *replique* of the Russian Ambassador was referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The reports of the possibility of an attack by Russia on the Dardanelles gave the Russian Ambassador more assistance, for he gave it to be understood that Russia asked Europe in persuading Italy to abandon the occupation which it was known was very heavy on Italy and clearly that Italy would not voluntarily give way to the question of the Straits, let us find out how much Russia would herself face to face with Austria. Austria has anxiously tried to find out what support would be given. The Austrian press was of a most pessimistic character, and a Socialist Parliamentarian has expressed to the writer that the question did not passed beyond the stage of mutual observation.

Russian claims in Persia and Italy in Tripoli, with some suspicion here by the Government, would be Native, but party in certain considerable amount of support, and the Government in Persia, and rights of the contested country was by the Russian Government, on the other hand, produced a good effect in hastening the evacuation of Persia by Russian troops, which is not here

Servia

In the past year not much has been heard of Servia, though there have been distur[illegible] in Albania, which the Servian Ambassador, on one occasion, wished it to be understood here, should be a cause for Servian activity, and was not, as had previously been [illegible] by the following quarter wake.

The Servian Ambassador has throughout the year been flowing hot and cold, at one time declaring that the new regime, in spite of some serious faults, was deserving of warm support, and on the declaring that if Turkey did not [illegible] ways the worst was to be feared of her future.

The unrest which felt in Turkey over the Bosnian annexation appears to have completely subsided. But on the other hand, the suspicion occasionally arose as to the possibility of Austrian designs on Albania, engendered by reports of encouragement given to the Mussulman people of those provinces.

Austria-Hungary has shown more moderation perhaps than other Powers to assume an attitude of reserve in regard to Albanian matters, justified partly by the condition that the opposition of other Powers was relaxed.

The first definite warning of the "Grande Idée," evidently inspired by the Austrian Government, restricting the action of the Turkish Government towards the insurgents in Albania, met with friendly comment some weight, but mainly on account of convictions that Austria-Hungary was playing with Germany in the question. While on the subject of the

Austrian press, it is somewhat interesting to note that the "Neue Freie Presse," which until this year gave its undivided support to the committee, suddenly changed and adopted a somewhat hostile attitude.

At moments the Turkish Government has resented the friendly advice given by Austria as to the management of Albania, but the argument being put forward that such advice might avoid the necessity of as taking an official form later on, it was to a certain extent followed. Austria taking to herself full credit for these results.

None the less in many quarters here a feeling exists that when the moment comes Austria will give encouragement to the Albanians to work for their independence, which may eventually redound to the entire advantage of Austria.

Whatever may have been the attitude assumed in Europe generally by Austria towards Italy at the outbreak of the war with that country, here her attitude was one of distinct sympathy with Turkey, and this country was no doubt grateful for the warning given to Italy by Austria to keep her hands off the Albanian coast subsequent to the incident in the neighbourhood of Prevesa.

The suggestion put forward by Russia towards the opening of the Straits to Russian men-of-war gave Austria an opportunity of creating the impression that she was strongly opposed to the granting of such a privilege, and when the negotiations on that matter broke down she no doubt took full credit for her share in the failure.

The Austrian Ambassador has, strongly I believe, been credited with being the most active of the foreign representatives in endeavouring to find a possible assistance action, and his action has I think, like that of his colleagues been examined to carefully sounding the different Ministers as to their views.

A new Turkish Ambassador has been appointed to Vienna the late Ambassador, Reshid Pasha, having incurred the displeasure of the Grand Vizier, but the appointment has no special significance except internally, where it was considered as a step to the Greek element, the new Ambassador being a Greek.

Italy

My last year's report mentioned the unrest on which arose towards the close of the year of the seizure by Turkey of an Italian "sambuk" accused of smuggling, and the despatch of a mixed commission to examine the matter.

As was expected, the two parties agreed to disagree, and although there was such a stipulation that as this event the question was to be referred to His Majesty's Government, the matter dragged on without such reference being made, the Italians always having some reason for a postponement of the final solution by these means. Here in official circles the general impression existed that the Italians were in the wrong, and did not dare submit the matter to the arbitration of His Majesty's Government.

Turkey, always sensitive of the designs of Italy on Tripoli, and having as great a contempt for her morality and for her military power as she has for the Greeks, to whom people are apt to compare them, not always in favour of the Italians, became rapidly more suspicious of the attitude assumed by Italians in Tripoli, where the Turkish Government declared that the Italian Government permitted that all concessions should be given them, whereas the Turkish Government, not unnaturally, were jealous of the strides made by Italy in that province, were to retard the peaceful penetration it was taking place there. The Turkish Government made an appeal to His Majesty's Government for their opinion as to whether all foreign competitors must necessarily withdraw in favour of Italians in Tripoli.

The Gozzan case was another that deepened the sore between Italy and Turkey.

The facts briefly were as follows —

Guzman, an Argentine journalist and an ally of the Committee of Union and Progress, had at the request of the Italian Government been expelled from Tripoli. As martial law did not exist and no trial took place, the expulsion was irregular. Guzman later returned and the Italian consular cavass endeavoured to prevent his landing. This, not unnaturally, was resented by the local authorities, who proceeded to bring about the man's release. Without waiting for a full report of the case to reach here, the Italian Government demanded immediate satisfaction, otherwise the fleet would be dispatched to Tripolitan waters. The Porte again appealed to His Majesty's Government to exercise a moderating influence on the Italian Government but were informed in reply that the good offices could not be given unless both parties solicited them, and the opportunity was taken advantage of to remind the Turkish Government that His Majesty's Government were by no means pleased with the attitude of the Turkish

Government, which had by no means shown that friendly disposition that we had a right to expect.

During the summer a fresh case occurred, which in itself was of no special importance, but which served as a useful addition to the genuine or trumped up grievances of the Italians against the Porte.

At Adana a young Italian girl was carried off, with the alleged connivance of the governor, and was married to a Moslem.

Every obstacle was put in the way of discovering her whereabouts and of ascertaining whether she had voluntarily espoused Mahommedanism.

The Italians maintained that she would not, being under the age of 16, either marry without the consent of her parents or change her religion. The Turks maintained that being actually married she was a Turkish subject, and the Italians had nothing to say to it. It was eventually agreed that she should be brought to Constantinople for a full enquiry. Nothing however, was done before the war broke out.

What finally brought about hostilities and the Italian alleged grievances will be fully dealt with in another section of the report.

United States.

The strenuous energies of the United States representative here during the first six months of the year were devoted to obtaining the passage through the interested departments of the Cresson scheme, which was dealt with in my last report, and in the closing days of the session of Parliament there was a strong wave of enthusiasm in the Chamber in its favour. The Grand Vizier, however, was, I believe, always opposed to it, partly owing to his pro-German sympathies and partly owing to a general dislike on the part of Ministers here of the idea of seeing America taking a prominent position in railway enterprise here. This I believe, is due to an apprehension that America might, in order to assert her rights once established, resort to measures that might be very inconvenient; and while in the case of other great Powers a feeling exists that any aggressive action might be checked by their rivals, in the case of America Turkey might be left to face her alone.

The American supporters of the scheme left in disgust in the summer, but when Parliament met in the autumn the scheme was again laid before the Chamber, but in spite of considerable support in that body the combined action of the Minister of Public Works and Admiral Limpus and the German embassy were sufficient to relegate the scheme to a limbo from which it is not likely to reappear. The new ambassador declares that the Cresson concession would never be accepted by the American syndicate.

The American embassy is ever active in thwarting the attempts of the Sublime Porte to encroach upon the long established privileges of the educational and missionary establishments of that country here.

Otherwise no particular activity by that embassy in the numerous political questions that interest other missions.

Balkan States.

The relations between Turkey and Bulgaria have certainly during the past year shown a desire on the part of both governments, owing mainly to the fact that M. Gueshoff, a declared friend of the policy of good relations with Turkey, was in power, and for the present Bulgaria appears to have realised that as she had allowed the moment to slip by when she could have attacked Turkey with some hope of success, that opportunity is not likely to return in the future.

Considering the attitude of the Salonica committee on the Macedonian question, it may be regarded as somewhat strange that relations remained as correct as they did. Numerous frontier incidents at which victims were made sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other occurred, but these are regarded as being in the natural order of things, and an arrangement has been concluded which, it is hoped, may, if it does not put a stop to these, in any case assist in the discovery of the culprits.

The customs arrangement between Turkey and Bulgaria, which came into force on the 1st (14th) January, 1907, having been denounced by the Porte, long-drawn-out negotiations took place during the year to bring about the conclusion of a commercial treaty. These first received a check at the end of January, the Bulgarian Government denying long-customary rights for navigation and finally the provisional convention was extended for one year, the term commencing on March 22, 1912.

With Servia and Roumania, Turkey's relations continue excellent. The former has

had an opportunity latterly of showing some return to Turkey for having allowed her to import arms and ammunition through Turkey during the crisis of 1908–1909, by now permitting the passage of arms through Servia.

The small grievance of Roumania, namely, the dilatoriness of this country in obtaining the passage through the legislature of the commercial treaty, still remains, but Roumania is perfectly satisfied not to press the matter, the old treaty being more advantageous than the new one.

Montenegro.

The history of the relations between Turkey and Montenegro during the year have mostly consisted of mutual expressions of sympathy and of a desire to live on good terms, followed immediately by complaints of each other's action, especially on the part of Montenegro, whose Government complained that Turkey would not carry out her engagements regarding the rectification of the frontier, which has never been submitted to the Turkish Parliament.

In the spring, however, Turkey found cause for complaint in that the Malissor rebels were taking refuge in Montenegro and were assisted by Montenegrin officers. The Turks demanded that the Malissors should on entering Montenegro be disarmed, and Montenegro on the other hand appealed to the Powers regarding the state of affairs on the frontier, and the expense to which she was put by the compulsory maintenance of the refugees, and protested against the number of troops maintained by Turkey on her frontier.

In May the Russian Ambassador asked the Turkish Government to declare that they had no hostile intentions against Montenegro. This was in some quarters regarded in the nature of a menace, but the communication itself was couched in very friendly terms, and was not resented in official circles, though the most of it was made by the supporters of the Triple Alliance.

In June some of the Powers made friendly representations at Cettinje, with a view to inducing the King to use his influence towards bringing about the pacification of the Albanian districts on his boundaries.

It was evident all the time that the King's attitude was dictated by a desire to pose before the Albanians as their supporter, and in failing to carry out his threats for a mobilisation on a large scale he likewise endeavoured to gain the good will of the Powers, and when eventually Turkey consented to make a series of concessions to the Albanians, Montenegro succeeded also in extracting certain promises of dredging works on the Bojana, thus giving Montenegro some 6 to 8,000 hectares of land to which Turkey was bound by the Treaty of Berlin. Notes to carry these out seem, however, yet to have been made.

An exchange of notes took place in September between the Porte and the Montenegrin Government dealing with the linking up of Scutari and Antivari by rail, and with the execution of works on Turkish territory in the common interest.

No time limit was fixed for the carrying out of the works, and I have not yet heard of their having been begun.

Greece.

A certain improvement has taken place in the relations between Turkey and Greece, in a great measure due to the conciliatory and tactful attitude of M. Venizelos and M. Gryparis, but perhaps mainly to the fact that Turkey's attention was fully occupied elsewhere. From time to time, however, the Cretan question was broached by zealous patriots, but the matter has not envenomed the relations between the two countries, though politicians have always been careful to maintain that the Cretan question must be settled in a manner to safeguard the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

The boycott of Greek goods and shipping continued in a somewhat half-hearted way until the autumn, when owing to the withdrawal of Italian shipping Greek vessels became a necessity, and the Greek boycott ceased.

At one moment it was feared that Turkey, incensed by the Italian attack on Tripoli, might, in order to satisfy the military element, revenge herself by an attack on Greece, but this wanton idea did not materialise. The Greek Minister here, M. Gryparis, is said to be about to return here, and a new Turkish Minister has been appointed to Athens, so that it is to be hoped that if the *status quo* can be maintained between Turkey and Greece may obtain.

Prominent Men in 1911

The year 1911 brought few new personalities to the forefront of political life. The most prominent men have still been those whom the revolution of 1908 caused to emerge from complete obscurity, and those officers who, having played more or less conspicuous parts under the old regime, survived at without disaster, thanks to their merit or good fortune. Most of these men have been mentioned in the annual reports for 1908, 1909, and 1910. Nevertheless the successive ministerial crises and the various other vicissitudes of the past year have brought into prominence a certain number of men of the second or third rank who have not hitherto been important enough to be mentioned in other reports.

Djavid Bey, who fell early in May, was succeeded at the Ministry of Finance by Nail Bey, a man of perhaps 50 years of age at the time of the revolution, and at that time already known to a small circle as an official of high personal character and an intelligent teacher and student of economic subjects. Elected a deputy in 1908, he has since been a consistent though moderate member of the committee. He had one trial experience of ministerial responsibility, as Minister of Public Instruction in Hilmi Pasha's Cabinet. A man of heavy physique and poor health, and also of peculiar personal appearance, he was too easily drawn from that post by the importunities of brother officers, but he exacted due weight in matters in respect of which he was generally held at his reputation for integrity. He was nominated a member of the Senate of the year 1913, but was one of the original Turkish directors of the National Bank of Turkey. When Hewsi was appointed Minister of Finance it was recognised that no more suitable colleague could be found, but it was feared that his straightforward character would hardly be great enough to resist the formidable intrigues which surrounded the Ministry. The event has justified these misgivings, for so far Nail Bey has not only displayed prudence in elaborating the financial measures which the Cabinet has submitted to Parliament, but has shown considerable firmness in resisting the pressure of the Ministry of War to indulge in excessive and unfruitful expenditure.

Khalil Bey, who entered Hakki Pasha's Cabinet as Minister of Public Works early in June, was at that time known as a capable engineer of about 50 years of age, who, after a short course of studies in Germany, had for many years been employed in that Ministry and worked his way up to the post of Permanent Under-Secretary. He was a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, but was not prominent in any political connection, and he had not been sufficiently correct in his leanings to be dismissed from the service by Said Pasha, with others with English sympathies. Under the circumstances he took an unusual step when he took an active part in the counter-revolution which overthrew Said Pasha, who had retained him in the Ministry of Public Works. He was entrusted with the task of forming a Cabinet in October, but failed to reconstruct the Ministry in such a way as to be able to secure the support of Kiamil Pasha, who would appear to have been prepared to have given his support to the Hedjaz Railway scheme, which Khalil is said to destroy rather hastily in the summer when it came up in Parliament. He also took the unusual step for a Minister of the Government as a whole of issuing a circular to vessels in port, which has called forth many protests from Messageries Maritimes and other companies interested in the matter, alleging that the circular was unfair to British contractors interested in the Hedjaz Railway.

Assim Bey, formerly Turkish Minister at Stockholm and more recently at Sofia, entered Said Pasha's Cabinet as Minister for Foreign Affairs early in October. The post was a difficult one to fill, as war with Italy had made it difficult to find among the better known statesmen one willing to undertake the office. Assim Bey was chosen as a second choice, the best Hakki Pasha, the Ambassador at Vienna, who hesitated sufficiently long to see that the Embassy would not be worth having, declined to accept the Ministry. Assim Bey is a man of about 45 years of age, who left Turkey after completing his education and has since then for twenty-five years been interrupted only by brief leaves of absence in attaching all his energies, when he became Foreign Minister, to externals, and probably to a great extent remains in touch with the thought of the day rather than a Turk, and he is married to a Hungarian lady. He speaks French fluently, and has a plausible manner in social, private conversation, but he shows no great grasp of the larger problems of European politics, and is somewhat apt to indulge in appeals to sentimental considerations. In this and in other ways he conveys the impression of being highly strung, and he occasionally passes the bounds of discretion in speaking of the absent. In his direct dealings he is scrupulously correct and courteous. In dealing with non-political business he has hitherto shown himself conciliatory and

reasonable, if a little too ready to promise rather than to perform. There are not wanting, however, indications that he might be a good deal more chauvinistic if he held office at a time when it was less essential for a Turkish Foreign Minister to be on his best behaviour. He professes to be a firm believer in the necessity for a good understanding with England, says little about Germany, and is unreservedly mistrustful towards Russia. In regard to home politics he boasts of his prudence in having joined no party, but he is generally regarded as a whole-hearted supporter of the Committee. He is not very popular at the Porte, and is said by some to be uncongenial to Said Pasha.

The other Ministers not previously mentioned in these reports who have held office in 1911 may be discussed more briefly. Mavrogordato Effendi, who for some months occupied the post of Minister of Marine, &c., for the second time since the restoration, is a Greek of good local family, and a senator. He was a councillor of State under the old regime, and is a man of intelligence but no striking force of character. Sinapian Effendi, who succeeded him in October, is an Armenian Catholic, and has long been known as an able lawyer with no political connections. He was for many years conseiller legiste of the department, and has therefore a good deal of technical knowledge. Stamboul Effendi, who was Minister of Posts and Telegraphs from July to October, is another Armenian lawyer with no political past. He lived much in Paris under the old regime. He is an urbane, genial, and perhaps somewhat pompous Ibrahim Soussa Bey who succeeded him in October is a Mekel Catholic, with a fine presence and a high reputation for integrity. His earlier career was spent in the department of which he is now the head but he was, during the last few years of the old régime, Assistant Vali of Erzeroum, in which capacity he used his considerable influence for good when venturing to go so far as to compromise his personal safety. He had for some time been Governor-General of the Archipelago before he entered the Ministry, and has justified the unusual, if not unprecedented, step of appointing a Christian vali to a mainly Christian province. Abdurrahman Nazmi Bey, a soldier, who was Minister of Public Instruction for a considerable portion of the year, is historiographer of the Empire, an ancient post which combines with the presidency of the much more modern historical commission at the Porte. He is one of the old guard of Liberals whose re-elections go back to Midhat Pasha's time, but is at the same time an easy-going Turk of the old-fashioned type, and counts for little in public life. He was director of the Imperial Seray School, a lycée intended to turn out European lines for many years preceding the constitution. Halil Bey who became Minister of the Interior in Said Pasha's October cabinet, is also a man of academic antecedents. He had a short spell of service in the Ministry of Public Instruction, and was for some years rector of the University of Constantinople under the old regime. Soon after the constitution he became Vali of Erzeroum, and occupied the post with one distinction for a couple of years. He passed some years in Montenegro as Secretary, and, while at Erzeroum, he made a secret of his Liberal sympathies, though correct and conciliatory in his dealings with foreign consuls. Towards the end of his stay at Erzeroum he showed some tendency to rebel against the Salonica extremists, but as a Cabinet Minister he has been regarded as a stanch Committee-man.

Nominally a notable figure as leader of the party during the past year are those who dominate the parliamentary arena. Talaat Bey, who resigned the leadership of the Committee party on the day when Halil Bey of Montesl vacated that position to become Minister of the Interior, retained the leadership for only a short time, and made way for Said Bey, one of the deputies for Smyrna. Said Bey is a lawyer who earlier in life discarded the fez of the Liberals for the Young Turk fez. He is a good debater and his early training enables him to meet on their own ground the subtle dialectic arts of the Liberals, whose merciless logic the Opposition so often rely on. The gradual growth of a parliamentary opposition has emboldened the deputies on that side of the House, and a few members other than those mentioned in previous reports may be briefly enumerated. The titular leader of the coalition constituting what is known as the Entente Libérale, is Ismail Hakki Pasha, an honest and hot-tempered soldier, who cuts a great figure in Parliament, and whose leadership appears to be little more than nominal. Sabri Effendi, member for Tokat in the most extreme of the dialects mentioned, and is distinguished for the moderateness of his logic, the quakerish tranquillity of his delivery, and the inordinate length of his speeches. Sadik Bey, a notable lawyer, is another pillar of the same side.

Boussios Effendi, now the leading member of the Greek group which works with the Opposition, and formerly an agitator in Macedonia, is perhaps the most truculent member of the Chamber. His Turkish is fluent rather than elegant, but his impudent

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wit endears him to the Assembly In the absence of Ismail Kemal Bey, who prudently remained at road up to the end of 1911, Basri Bey, of Debra, has been the most conspicuous Albanian member and is, like most of the Albanians, a sworn foe to the committee, of which he was formerly a member.

A few men outside the Chamber and the Ministry perhaps deserve a passing mention.

Daoud Ferid Pasha, a member of the Senate and a brother-in-law of the Sultan, was already well-known to many foreigners under the old régime, having been one of the few Turks of good position whose intercourse with foreigners was tolerated. He was then known as a student of prehistoric man. But the revolution has given him the opportunity of gratifying a taste for contemporary politics, and his connection with the Imperial House, combined with wealth and a fair measure of intelligence has secured for him a degree of consideration out of proportion to his actual achievement in political life. He made one bid for favour a couple of years ago by presenting to the Senate a memoir in which he sustained the unpopular thesis that the constitution of Midhat Pasha was quite democratic enough for the Turkish Empire in its present state of development. He is now the head of the Entente Libérale, and in that capacity has incurred the charge of inconsistency by combating a measure having for its object to restore to the Crown certain prerogatives which it enjoyed under the constitution of 1876, and which were curtailed by the modifications of 1909.

Colonel Sadik Bey is a personage who has played a considerable part, though mostly behind the scenes, during the last twelve months. He was in the Monastir garrison at or about the time of the restoration of the constitution, and is supposed to have taken a more active part in bringing the revolutionary movement than many whose names became popularly associated with its success. Since that time he has enjoyed much consideration in military circles as a strong and silent worker. Early in 1911 it became known that he had identified himself with the "dissidents" from the committee ranks, and he was supposed to be backed by no less a personage than Mahmoud Shevket Pasha. When, however, the latter himself drove many of his friends to stand in with the committee, Sadik Bey has definitely gone over to the Opposition. Towards the end of April he was removed from his post at the Ministry of War to Salonica, and within a couple of weeks he resigned his commission and published a manifesto openly criticising the committee's interference with the Government and the participation in politics of officers on the active list. When the Liberal Entente party was formed he appeared as a founder and member of the central committee, but he has continued to remain in the background as far as the public activities of the new party are concerned. He is little known in European circles and appreciations of him vary greatly. His public pronouncements, though rare at best and somewhat ornamental, are now specially impressive, but many think him capable of coming forward at the psychological moment and assuming the rôle of military arbiter of the destinies of the country.

Tahir Khayreddin Bey is the son of the well-known Khayreddin Pasha who was Grand Vizier from December 1878 to July 1879, and thus belongs to a family much respected in Constantinople. He was attended during the greater part of the year with one of the two most vigorous opposition papers of the capital, and was eventually chosen to contest the seat in the Chamber vacated by Riza Pasha, who had been one of the members for Constantinople. His election by a majority of one was the most marked success hitherto scored by the Opposition.

Other two personages distinguished themselves in the provinces in the course of the year. The Grand Sherif of Mecca conducted in the province of Assir a successful campaign which culminated in the relief of Ebha, and conceived so high an opinion of himself in consequence that it was feared he might give trouble to the Central Government. In the last heard of him recently however General Izzet Pasha, previously Chief of the General Staff, was put in charge of the military operations against Imam Yahya in the Yemen, and after achieving a considerable measure of success, acquired also the reputation of a diplomatist by negotiating with the Imam a treaty which will, it is hoped, secure the tranquillity of the Yemen for some time without compromising the Sultan's rights as sovereign and as overlord.

Another personage of whom more may be heard in the future is Seyyid Talib Bey a member of the chief local family in Bussorah, a man still in early middle life, and characterised by great ambition and no little capacity for intrigue. He was elected a deputy for Bussorah in the 1908 elections, but he has done little to make himself conspicuous in Constantinople, and his activities have mostly been exercised in Mesopotamia where he and his family enjoy great influence. He maintains intimate relations with the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah, and seems to cherish the idea of establishing

some kind of semi-independent position for himself in these regions. He speaks English passably, and at present professes the most cordial friendship for the English, but his methods are tortuous and his character untrustworthy.

Lastly, a word may be said of Mavroyeni Bey, who was towards the end of the year appointed Ambassador in Vienna.

He is a Greek of about 65 years of age, and was many years ago Minister at Washington, but in the interval of over a quarter of a century he has held no diplomatic post. He was for a short time Prince of Samos under the old régime. He was made a senator after the constitution. He is fond of society, and is well known in diplomatic and other foreign circles in Constantinople. He speaks both English and French fluently. He is a man of intelligence, but he owes his appointment to Vienna to nothing so much as the fact that he was almost the only senator to support Said Pasha in a recent conflict between that obstinate statesman and the Upper Chamber. He pleased the Grand Vizier as much as Reshid Pasha had displeased him by his refusal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and reaped the fruit of Said Pasha's vindictive determination not to reinstate the latter in the embassy.

Finance.

The budget for the year was prepared by Djavid Bey, and showed the large deficit of £T 12,500,000, but Nail Bey, who replaced him in May, and was therefore in office when the Finance Bill passed through the Chamber, was able to announce that, thanks to the fact that the estimates of expenditure on the one hand would not be reached and that those for revenue on the other would be exceeded by at least £T 2,500,000, the actual deficit would probably not reach £T 5,500,000. To meet this he had in hand the balance of the 1911 Customs loan, against which, as the moment was inopportune for placing it on the market, the German bankers were ready to advance £T 3,250,000, and the statutory advance of the Imperial Ottoman Bank viz. £T 1,500,000, so that a comparatively small loan of £T 1,000,000 would balance the accounts. This prediction seems, however, to have been premature, for within six weeks of his entrance Nail Bey had obtained from the Ottoman Bank a further credit of £T 500,000, and had also approached that institution and the National Bank of Turkey for an advance of £T 2,000,000, so that his total requirements must be put at £T 2,500,000 instead of £T 1,000,000, but with the publication of that the larger sum was to suffice to meet the needs of the Government until April. Both banks declined the operation, and Nail Bey at once issued a statement denying that there had been any paparlers with the object of obtaining accommodation. In addition to the deficit on the ordinary budget, there are also large supplementary and extraordinary credits to be met amounting to as much as £T 8,500,000 in round figures.

In framing his budget for 1328 which was presented to the Chamber in November, Nail Bey endeavoured to avoid some of the faults that vitiated Djavid's methods. Hitherto all sorts of credits that could not possibly be utilised within the financial year had been included in the estimates of expenditure, while the calculations as to probable revenue were based on the average of the five preceding years, a system which made no allowance for the elasticity of the country's resources. Djavid's budgets had indeed been of the catch-penny order, intended to dazzle the public with great schemes of improvements of all kinds, and to impress it with the prudence of the Minister who refused to overstate the national prosperity. But overestimated expenditure and underestimated receipts produced alarming deficits on paper, which, if they did not seriously affect Turkish credit abroad, did not ever, as might have been hoped, have the effect of deterring the Chamber from increasing the already flatus credits submitted for its approval. Nail Bey has attempted to end this system, but with all his good intentions he failed to bring his estimated expenditure (£T 32,250,000) within £T 3,550,000 of his probable revenue (£T 28,700,000), and even this deficit does not include a formidable sum in extraordinary expenditure, which he admitted would bring the aggregate deficit to over £T 6,000,000, or more than 20 per cent. of the revenue. Nail's methods, however, are businesslike, and have gained him great popularity in the Chamber. Still it may be doubted whether he has really effected much in the way of economy except in the doubtful case of the War Department, and it may turn out that the reduction in the total estimates is due almost wholly to cutting out credits which there never was any reasonable prospect of expending. I say the doubtful case of the War Department because, although the total credits as presented by Nail to the Chamber show a reduction of 100,000,000 silver piastres, it is by no means certain that Shevket Pasha will not induce the deputies to restore the military estimates to the old

figure of 900,000,000 piastres. Nail's revenue estimates also have been adversely criticised, and it must be confessed that to count on a continual expansion of receipts at the rate of about £T 2,000,000 a year is somewhat bold finance. One serious blot still remains on the Turkish financial administration, viz., the virtual freedom of the War Office from Treasury control. In the matter of strength between the Finance and War Departments last year over this question Shevket's influence with the deputies proved too strong for Djavid, but Nail Bey has taken up the battle afresh, and his position seems to be strong, as he has absolute proofs, so he has assured me, of the existence of grave irregularities in money matters at the Seraskierat of which he is prepared to make public use to bring his colleague to book. The extraordinary expenditure for 1912–1913 is to be much smaller than for the previous year, but it is still a heavy item, no less than £T 1,750,000 being required for the War Department alone, and it is estimated that the total defence, both ordinary and extraordinary, will amount to nearly £T 6,200,000.

Loans on a grand scale for public works have been much talked of, but excepting the sum required for the service of the first part of the 1911 Customs loan, actually contracted in 1910, and those re affected to the extension of the Baghdad Railway, the only new burden on the Treasury was in connection with the Ala Bazaar to Bolon Branch of the Anatolian Railways, which enjoys a guarantee of 15,000 fr. per kilom., involving a total annual liability of £T 140,000, which is secured on the Constantinople Customs after payment of the service of the 1911 loan. But even in the case of this railway the formalities are not complete, as the Imperial Irade sanctioning it has not been issued. The other more important projects were the port works at Smyrna and Ked-Keui, and the French railway systems in Albania and Northern Anatolia, involving £T 1,000,000 and £T 20,000,000 to £T 25,000,000 respectively. Preliminary contracts for both these undertakings were signed, but in December it became known that the Government found that the French scheme would entail too great a strain on finance, and the Albanian part of the project was to be postponed. The road construction Loan of £T 2,500,000, arranged for with the Roaver group of banks, has not yet been floated, as the French Government has declined to admit it to quotation on the Paris Bourse.

The first part of the 1911 Customs loan was successfully put on the market in Berlin and Vienna in March, at the price of 85.15.

While we are still in doubt as to the cost of the Albanian and Yemen campaigns and of the mobilisation entailed by the Italian war (it is said to have cost £T 1,000,000 in the first three months), it is difficult to say what the result of the year's working is likely to be, but Nail Bey's unsuccessful attempt to raise £T 2,500,000 at the close of the year is not a very encouraging symptom. Otherwise the year has been satisfactory. The yield of taxation has increased as fast as in the two preceding years, railway receipts have shown a gratifying growth, and the alarming prognostications of the havoc by the severe weather in January and February have not been fulfilled. Until the very end of the month also trade was flourishing, but the tightness of money caused by the Balkan war, and intensified by the failure of an important bank in Egypt, brought matters to a standstill. Unless there are difficulties, and the embarrassed state of the Ports was further aggravated by a temporary shortness in the supply of gold coin, which Nail Bey was unable to manufacture fast enough to meet the demand, the stress, however, was safely tided over with only a few unimportant failures, while those houses, and especially the exporters who could command ready cash to pay for their exports, made magnificent profits. At the close of the year also exporters were showing signs of nervousness in most parts of the Empire, and it is to be feared that when existing orders have been filled business will become slack. The process, which has already taken place at Smyrna, where during November and December the customs receipts failed to cover expenses of collection, &c.

I should do injustice to the contract between the Government and the Imperial Ottoman Bank over the 1911 loan, which formed so large a part of my report on Turkish finances last year, has been composed. The necessity for putting an end to it was, indeed, obvious to both parties, and advantage was taken of M. Révoil's arrival to replace M. Dellés as Director of the bank to enter into negotiations, which resulted in a new agreement signed early in February. By it the Bank agrees to increase the statutory advance from £T 1,000,000 to £T. 1,500,000, with interest at 5½ per cent., and without any special guarantee, to reduce its fixed annual commission for various services performed for the Government from £T. 82,000 to £T 22,000, and to open a number of additional provincial offices without cost to the Government. The bank in fact gave way all along the line.

Sir Richard Crawford has been appointed Conseiller financier et economique, but without any clearly defined duties.

Public Works.

The appropriations voted in the general budget for the year 1327 (1st 14th March, 1911–29th 13th March, 1912), for the Department of Public Works, were for:—

		Piastres
1.	Administration (Ministry of Public Works and Provinces)	9,418,785
2.	Services (railways and roads)	9,000,000
3.	Construction and repairs of certain provincial roads	86,217,864
4.	Extension of Oriental railways	3,000,000
5.	Military and engineering forces	1,750,000
6.	Cost of expropriating certain lands required for doubling the Oriental railway line between the termini at Sirkedji and San Stefano	3,500,000
7.	Konia irrigation works	1,200,000
8.	Mesopotamia irrigation works	2,000,000
9.	Foreign engineers salaries	250,000
	Total	155,386,650 (Or £T 1,614,490)

How much of the amounts under the credits, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, will have been expended within the financial year can only be known when the next year's credits for public works are discussed in Parliament in conjunction with the general budget for the year 1328.

The activity of the Ministry of Public Works has been mainly directed to the carrying out of some of the work undertaken last year. A great deal of attention has also been given to the numerous projects for railway construction in the country and to the various schemes for works which have been brought forward, but the department has comparatively little to show in the way of work actually accomplished and of new undertakings set on foot during the year.

Railways.

Completed.

Tripoli to Syria–Homs.—The concession of this branch line of 82 kilom. in length, which joins the Hayak–Aleppo system at Homs, was granted to the Régie générale des Chemins de Fer in October, 1909. Construction was begun early in the following year, and the line was completed in March, 1911, but was only opened to traffic in June.

Under Construction.

Hodeidah–Sana'a (Yemen).—Although the concession for this railway was granted in 1910 to Leon of Paris and the Banque du Commerce et de l'Industrie (Reuaver's Bank), the firman of concession was promulgated in 1911. Owing partly to the unsettled state of the country, but principally to the many engineering difficulties which beset the line as the line penetrates into the mountainous region (Jebel), at which we are assured with careful surveying, the concessionnaires have for the moment been authorised to limit their work to the construction of the railway as far as Hodjella—120 kilom. inland from Hodeidah—to the laying of a branch line from Hodeidah to Djibana (17 kilom.), and to the building of a port at the latter place. Construction was much impeded by the military operations in the country, which took place during the spring and summer, and also by the great scarcity of labour, but the work on the Hodeidah–Djibana branch has so far advanced that the first train was run on the first 3 kilom. on the 18th December, and it is announced that trains will run through to Hodeidah during the month of January, 1912.

Soma–Panderma.—The concession for this line, which is to link up the Smyrna–Cassaba railway with Constantinople, was obtained by the Régie générale in 1910. Construction has been actively carried on by the concessionnaires, and it is expected that the line will be completed by November, 1912.

Baba-Eski–Kirk Kilissé.—Surveys of this branch line of 45 kilom. in length were made during the summer by the Oriental Railway Company, and building operations were immediately begun. The work has been undertaken by the Oriental Railway

Company on Government account, and this line will form part of the Oriental railway system which it joins at Baba Eski, a station not far from Adrianople Construction has so far advanced that the line will be ready for traffic in March, 1912

New Concessions

Apart from the arrangements made, by which the Bagdad Railway Company have secured the continuation of their line from Hafr to Bagdad, as well as the concession of the branch from Osmanek to Alexandretta, the only concession to be recorded is that of the Aca Bazar Bolu railway, granted to the Anatolian Railway Company

This railway, which will be about 210 kilom. long, is an extension of the short branch line which leaves the main system (Haidar-Pasha Eskishehr) at Arife station, and reaches Aca Bazar (9 kilom.) According to the convention the company is authorised to extend the line to a point to be determined by the Government 60 kilom. beyond Bolu, and it is reasonable to suppose that the Government will eventually require the prolongation of this line through Kastamboul towards Amasia, where it will join the proposed Samsoun-Sivas railway, and will thus place the Black Sea provinces in direct railway communication with the capital A guarantee of 15,000 fr. per kilometre has been granted from Arifo to Bolu, this guarantee is to be paid out of the revenue of the Constantinople customs after the annuity charge of £T. 550,000 of the 1911 4 per cent. Loan has been met. A novel feature in the arrangement relative to the mode of payment of the guarantees is that, after the 2nd of January, 1914, the Customs Department will annually pay into the Deutsche Bank a sum of £T. 140,000, half payable on the 2nd of January and the other half on the 2nd of July of each year These amounts will be held on deposit by the Deutsche Bank and credited to Government account, an interest being paid at 1 per cent less than the discount rate of the State German Bank. Any sums which may be due to the Anatolian Railway Company on account of kilometric guarantees for the Aca Bazar Bolu railway will be deducted from these annual deposits.

The line is to be constructed within two and a half years after the date of the approval of the plans by the Public Works Department, the gross receipts of the new line are to be gradually merged in those of the Haidar Pasha-Angora railway as the various sections become opened to traffic

With this concession the Anatolian Railway Company have also obtained the necessary authorisation for doubling their local line between the terminus at Haidar Pasha and Ismid. The company in return are to pay the Government a fixed sum of 800,000 fr., and are to cede, free of charge, the land they had previously acquired at Haidar Pasha which will now be utilised for doubling the line

Projected Lines

The negotiations entered into in 1909 with the Regie generale for the building of railways in Asia Minor, which led to the survey of the Samsoun-Sivas railway *tracé* in 1909 and by that company, were suspended during the whole of 1910 The cause of the suspension was in no less due to the coolness of Franco-Turkish relations which existed at that time, no work was sought after by the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, of France, to obtain the consent of the French Government and the assistance of French financiers — especially the Imperial Ottoman Bank — to issue Turkish loans on the Paris bourse. The decision of the government at the time regarding the Samsoun-Sivas project was that the railway should be constructed by Government, and that the work should be given solely to Ottoman contractors. As a result of this decision some attempts were made by the Public Works Department to attract local contractors, and although the first section (Samsoun-Havza) of 90 kilom. was split up into lots of 12 and 15 kilom. the department was only able to give out about 30 kilom. in all.

Negotiations with the Ottoman Government were resumed by the Regie generale, with the assistance of the Ottoman Bank, in 1911 on the establishment of better relations between the Government and that banking institution, and a comprehensive scheme of railway construction, both in European and Asiatic Turkey was put forward The scheme had in view the construction of—

In Asia Minor — The Samsoun-Sivas line, with extensions to Erzinghian, Erzeroum, Trebizond, and Sivas-Karput, and Sivas-Yozga

In European Turkey —The surveys and construction of the Danube-Adriatic Railway and the branches needed to link up existing Turkish lines with the Bulgarian and Greek railway systems, and lastly, the conclusion of a large loan, the proceeds of which would

be devoted to the carrying out of these undertakings. The proposals made by the Régie were sufficiently satisfactory in the opinion of the Government to justify the announcement made by the Grand Vizier that a definite programme for railway construction would be laid before Parliament during the session.

Negotiations on the lines indicated took final shape in July, 1911, when a series of agreements were exchanged between the company and the Minister of Public Works, which established the following decisions —

1 That the surveys and construction of the Samsoun-Sivas (430 kilom.), Sivas-Kharput (150 kilom.), Sivas-Erzinghian-Erzeroum (550 kilom.), and Erzeroum-Trebizond (350 kilom.) railways are to be undertaken by the Régie generale for and on behalf of the Government, the Régie having the sole right to work and administer them

The funds necessary for carrying out the work will be provided by the Régie générale through the Imperial Ottoman Bank and will be raised in the form of a Government loan. The service of this loan (loan is estimated at about £T 25,000,000) is to be guaranteed by the traffic receipts of the railways, and also by the product of the 8 per cent. of the 11 per cent. import duty collected by the Customs at the Black Sea ports.

2 The Regie has a recognised preferential right to the construction of certain lines in European Turkey, the preliminary surveys of which are to be undertaken by the Régie These surveys were carried out under a "contrat d'études," and comprised —

(*a*) *The Danube Adriatic line* from Merdaré (Servian frontier) to Prizrend-Debré St. John of Medua and Scutari in Albania

(*b*) Monastir-Resné-Ochri-Sarova-Yanina to the coast with a branch joining the Danube-Adriatic line at Debré from Ochri

(*c*) Monastir-Demirlepe-Ishtib-Kotchana to the Bulgarian frontier

Proposals for the concession of these railways are to be made by the Regie, which the Government is free, however, to accept or reject. In the latter case, the Government reserves the right of putting the concessions up to tender, when the Régie will enjoy a preferential right on equal terms.

Surveys of the proposed lines to be constructed in Asia Minor have been completed, and the estimates of cost, and plans, have been received by the Public Works Department, and, according to the terms of the agreement, the definitive contract for construction will have to be drawn up and signed within a year from the date on which the plans were presented

As regards the surveys of the proposed railways in European Turkey little has been accomplished, owing to the difficulties created by the great unrest which reigns in that part of the country

Negotiations, it is understood, have been entered into by the Anatolian and Bagdad Railway Companies for building branch lines from Angora to Yozgat and Sivas (Anatolian Railway), Mardan to Kharput, Kharput-Bitlis-Van, and Eregli-Cesarea (Bagdad Railway).

A proposal has also been submitted by an Ottoman subject for the building of a line from Kevaserin to Shebin-Karahissar

Karaferia-Vlassona -The project for the building of a branch to join the Greek railways from Karaferia to Vlassona has been revived, and proposals have been submitted by the Soc été des Batignolles

Chester Scheme The project put forward nearly two years ago by Chester, on behalf of an American syndicate, for building 2,000 kilom. of railway in Asia Minor, has also been dealt with Modifications of the *tracé* were made to suit the views of the Government, and the syndicate further consented to abandon their claim to a monopoly of all the mines discovered within a certain radius of the line, as I agreed, that in regard to such mines, they would abide by the stipulations of the mining laws of the country The question of changing the narrow gauge as at first proposed, into a normal one, was also debated, the syndicate undertaking to make the change, if desired on certain terms Mr Chester and his group seem to have had sufficient grounds for expecting a favourable issue, in view of the desire they had all along shown to meet the wishes of the Government and the department Papers were called for in Parliament during the latter part of last session, and although Hakki Pasha (the Grand Vizier at the time) promised them, the Chamber broke up for the summer recess without anything being done, the Grand Vizier however making a declaration to the effect that the Chester project would be one of the first subjects to be discussed when Parliament met in the autumn

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Apparently discouraged by the continual prevarication of the Ministry, Mr Chester left, and as the syndicate subsequently withdrew the amount (£10,000) deposited as caution money, it is safe to infer that the scheme as far as the syndicate is concerned, has been abandoned The tone of the speech made by Houloussi Bey, the ex-Minister of Public Works, when bringing the scheme before Parliament this autumn, showed that the Government were not favourably disposed to the project The scheme may consequently be considered as definitely set aside

Roads

The programme adopted by the Public Works Department in 1909-10 had in view the opening up of 30 000 kilom of roads in the country, and their construction in ten years.

A contract was signed in 1910 with a German firm Messrs. Dicherhoff and Widmann, for the construction of 1,000 kilom in European Turkey, and contracts for the building of the first 10,000 kilom. in Asia Minor were made with the French Société générale d Entreprises de l Empire ottoman, a syndicate formed by the Société des grands Travaux de Marseilles, Fougerolles Frères of Paris, and MM Giros and Loudcar of Marseilles. These contracts were based, as regards cost, on the estimates prepared by the Public Works Department. The whole of the work was to be finished in three years. Surveys which were made in 1911 by the French company revealed the awkward fact that all the Government estimates which had formed the bases of the contracts were wrong, and very much below the real figures, the contractors estimating the cost of the work at £T 8,500,000, whilst the Government figure of cost was £T 5 000,000

Such a discrepancy has naturally led to lengthy negotiations, and has very much interfered with the work The Société, however, has not suspended operations, and although some of the shorter roads are in an advanced state, not one has been completed and opened to traffic during the year Another difficulty which has seriously tied the hands of the Société is the impossibility of the Government to give any financial assistance, owing to the action of the French Government in refusing to allow the Government road loan of £T 2,500,000, taken up by Ionnier's Bank, to be issued on the Paris Bourse. Contracts for the following roads were arranged for during the year, the contractors being the Société générale

1 Skodra-Prizrend,
2. St John of Medua-Debré-Strouga,
3 Redadje-Yanitsha,

About 473 kilom.

Also at

Constantinople Hadjar-Lasin-Maltépé, Stamboul-Beyuk-Tchekmeje,
Monastir.—Durrazzo-Salonica,
Monastir Kuralli Bridge Kroastem,
Brousa —Moudania-Brousa Biledjik,
Aleppo —Aappo-Alexandretta,
Beyrout Beyrout Hadla,

About 400 kilom in all.

Irrigation and Drainage

Mesopotamia Messrs. Sir John Jackson (Limited) have continued with the work which they contracted for in 1910, the contract was concluded with the then Governor-General of Bagdad, Nazim Pasha, the main conditions being that Messrs. Jackson would work as Government contractors until other arrangements could be made

Early in the year 1911 tenders were invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the construction of the Hindie barrage and the Habbaniah escape, the tenders to include the taking over of the work on which Messrs. Jackson were engaged. The whole tender was said to involve an outlay of about £T 1,400,000, and although the department fixed the 29th March as the last day on which offers would be accepted, the period was prolonged to the 27th June. Messrs. Sir J Jackson and Messrs S. Pearson and Sons were the only two contractors who tendered for the work, but the department, alleging that the construction of the Hindie barrage and Habbaniah escape alone, would not be of much value from an irrigation point of view,

unless other works were included and taken in hand at the same time, decided to cancel the adjudication. A new "cahier des charges," which comprised works at the Hindié, Habbaniah, and Feluja, were duly prepared, and contractors were informed that their offers should reach the department not later than the 2nd January 1912 It is reported that the department estimates the cost of the whole of this work at £T 5,000,000, whereas the estimates made by contractors bring the figure to close upon £T 15,000,000.

It is understood that Messrs. Jackson, Pearson, Griffiths, and Pauling are likely to tender, and a German firm—the contractors for the Bagdad Railway—is spoken of as one of their competitors.

Drin, Kiri, and Boyana Rivers and Scutari Lake —The dredging of these three rivers and the drainage of the lands around the Scutari Lake were among the works to have been undertaken in 1911. Contracts for surveys were made with the Régie générale in 1910, and, though these have been carried out and the department has been in possession of the plans and estimates since last May, nothing has been done

Ports.

Trebizond and Samsoun —Contracts were signed by the National Bank of Turkey for carrying out the preliminary surveys for the construction of ports at these two places A convention has also been signed relating to the concession of these two ports, which will be granted to the bank should they eventually decide to take up the option The concession, which will have to receive the approval of the Chamber is for ninety-nine years, and will confer the right to construct the ports, quays, warehouses, and bonded stores, and to levy port and quay dues. The works will have to be completed within five years' time, dating from the time the plans are passed by the Public Works Department.

Panderma —Arrangements have been made for the handing of this port by the Panderma-Soma Railway Company (Regie générale) for the account of the Panderma municipality The total expenditure is estimated at £T 22,000, and this sum will be gradually paid to the Régie by the local municipal authorities, the stipulation being that the whole debt must be wiped off by the 1st December, 1913.

General

Constantinople.—Foreign, principally German enterprise, has been active in securing a large share of the public works to be undertaken in the capital, especially in the development of the tramway system and the installation of electric lighting. By the convention of the 21st January, 1911, the German Syndicate (Angemeine Electrische Gesellschaft and Deutsche Bank)—who have long had the control of the Constantinople Tramway Company—were authorised to introduce electric traction on all their lines The change from horse to electric traction involves a considerable outlay for the widening of streets and laying down of heavier rails, besides the initial cost of generating stations, &c , and the estimate of expenditure is put down as—

	£T
Cost of electrification	300,000
Cost of expropriations to be borne by the Company .	80 000
Cost of expropriations to be borne by Government	50, 000
Generating stations .	100,000
Total	530,000

so that the company will require a capital of £T. 1,000,000, the greater part of which will be sunk.

Construction was to commence within six months after the approval of the plans, and the whole work has to be terminated within two years. Heavy rails have already been laid on the principal lines, and the generating station is being erected. Overhead wires will be used generally, but underground wires will be laid in the main and most frequented thoroughfares. The company can use either an alternative or a continuous current, the maximum tension of which has been fixed at 6,000 volts for underground and 600 volts for overhead wires with continuous current. Authorisation for considerable extensions of the tramway lines in various directions in the city and suburbs have been applied for, and it is proposed to join the Galata and Stamboul systems by a line which will run over the new Galata bridge now in course of construction

Electric Light —The concession for electric lighting was granted to Messrs Ganz

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and Co., of Budapest, in 1910, and a syndicate styled the Société anonyme ottomane d'Electricité was formed in April, 1911, to take over and work the concession. This syndicate is formed by the Société anonyme pour Entreprises d'Electricité et des Communications of Budapest, Banque générale de Crédit Longrois, Banque de Bruxelles, Giros et Loucheur of Marseilles and Paris, and has a capital of 12,000,000 fr.

The building of the generating station on a site acquired in the Golden Horn was taken in hand during the summer.

With the acquisition by the Deutsche Orient Bank of the controlling share in the Metropolitan Railway Company of Constantinople (originally a British company) negotiations were set on foot for combining the various undertakings and forming a trust. These negotiations have terminated in the formation of a powerful consortium called the "Union ottomane, Société d'Entreprises électriques à Constantinople," with a capital of 100,000,000 fr. The head offices of this powerful group are in Brussels, and all the enterprises undertaken by the various syndicates are now put under one administration. These enterprises now consist of —

The Constantinople Electric Tramways,
The Constantinople Electric Light,
The Constantinople Metropolitan Railway,
The Stamboul Gas Works Company.

The syndicate is to have a board of twenty-six directors, of which seven represent the French group, six represent the Belgian group, six represent the Belgeo Hungarian group, six represent the German group, and one represents the Swiss group.

Telephones.—A staff of British engineers were actively engaged during the spring and summer months of the year in making plans and collecting data for the installation of a telephone service in the city and suburbs. The complete plans were submitted to the Public Works Department in October, and work is to be undertaken during the course of 1912. A company has been formed in London and has taken over the concession granted by the Turkish Government to the National Telephone Company, the Western Telephone Company, and Thompson, Houston, and Co., of Paris.

Stenia Docks.—A concession was granted to an Italian subject, A. O. Negri, of the Società Commerciale, to establish floating docks and repairing shops at Stenia Bay, a small inlet on the European side of the Bosphorus, below Yenikeuy. The concession is for sixty years, and the company which has been formed, the Societe anonyme ottomane des Docks, Ateliers du Haut-Bosphore (Stenia), has a capital of 1,000,000 fr. It is intended to build three floating docks, a slip with workshops, and a quay; purchases of the necessary land were made, but owing to difficulties in the transfer of the title deeds nothing, so far, has been done.

The various schemes for concessions of electric lighting, electric trams, water supply, at Jerusalem, Aleppo, Adana, Trebizond, and Adalia, have made no progress towards realisation.

Army

The most important military event of the year has been the introduction of a new organisation for the army. Exclusive of the outlying provinces of Yemen, Hejaz, and Tripoli in Africa, the Empire is now divided into four ordus or army inspections, each corresponding, as far as the garrisons of the nizam troops (*i.e.*, the regular army) are concerned, to a distinct geographical and strategical zone. At the head of each ordu is an army inspector-general with a staff of inspecting officers for the several arms and departments, and affiliated to his command are one or more redif reserve army inspections, each with its own independent inspector and staff.

The regular army within these districts comprises thirteen army corps and three independent divisions, distributed as follows —

Ordu.	Headquarters.	Zone.	Number of Army Corps.	Number of Independent Divisions.
I	Constantinople	Roumania	4	0
		Macedonia and Albania	3	0
II	Salonica	Syria	1	0
III	Erzinjan	Kurdistan	3	0
IV	Bagdad	Mesopotamia	2	0
			13	3

The outlying provinces are garrisoned by the following troops, which are not included in any army inspection district —

The Yemen by the XIVth army corps, Tripoli in Africa by the 42nd independent division, the Hejaz by the 43rd independent division.

Thus it is seen that the old organisation of seven dissimilar and unwieldly ordus has been replaced by an organisation of homogeneous army corps and divisions, each of which is a force of all arms, complete in itself, capable of independent action as well as of being embodied in a larger formation, and commanded and trained in peace by the same commanders and staffs who will lead it in war.

The functions of administration and training have been separated, and the higher commanders are no longer burdened with routine work and petty details in time of peace, so that the army has become a handier and more flexible machine.

It will be noticed that infantry brigades have been abolished, there being now no intermediate formation between the army corps and the division.

The organisation of the troops, both regular and reserve, is based throughout on the principle of a division in three. Thus regiments are of three battalions, divisions of three regiments and army corps of three divisions.

The division is no longer a purely infantry force, but includes artillery and departmental troops, and the army corps has the necessary proportion of corps troops as well as its three divisions.

Having thus sketched the broad lines of the new organisation, it is necessary to point out that it has not yet quite assumed the symmetrical formation indicated above. Its application was subjected to two important considerations—

1. That no immediate increase in the strength of the army was possible, for financial reasons.
2. That an apparent increase in the number of battalions was undesirable, for political reasons.

Therefore four of the Asiatic army corps contain only two divisions at present, while the majority of the regiments only have their 3rd battalions existing as cadres. These, however, can be easily expanded for war, or as opportunity offers in time of peace.

A comparison of the distribution of the army under the old and new organisations is instructive as a guide to the relative importance attached to the various frontiers, and for this purpose the distribution of the infantry battalions may be taken as a criterion for that of the whole army. While the battalions in Kurdistan (i.e., the Russian frontier) remain the same, those in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia are reduced.

In Europe, on the other hand, there are 200 battalions instead of 172. This does not include 100 battalions which, on the introduction of the new organisation in March, were only cadres, and many of which have since become effective battalions.

Summary, the old distribution of the redif reserve organisation, which was in many cases a purely paper one, has been replaced by an arrangement based upon the population of the various districts, and upon considerations of geographical convenience. The unit is a redif battalion, which also forms a recruiting district. Within the nizam organisation, the general rule of three battalions to a regiment, and three regiments to a division obtains, there being in all 58 redif divisions or 524 battalions.

In spite of the many troubles by which the Turkish Government has been beset during the year of the Balkan war engendered by important military expeditions to the Yemen and Albania, and by the war with Italy, and also by the reorganisation with the many changes consequent thereon, has been carried out more quickly and with less confusion than could have been anticipated, and the army was redistributed, the units re-formed, and the various component parts of the new divisions fell into their new places with a smoothness and celerity which was surprising.

The shortage of officers is a matter of grave concern that has been seriously grappled with, and in this, as in every other department of military activity the Turkish army has made and is making the most strenuous efforts. The school for reserve officers, and the three various grades of officers' schools, the institution of which was reported last year, have been further developed, and will play an important part in providing officers for the augmented effectives which Turkey will shortly be able to put in the field in war.

It is perhaps worth noting that the army at first set apart for four years as being the time necessary entirely to leave off arms and to refit their army and reserves according to the new organisation.

The first year has been one of internal and external troubles which must have stopped all the energies of the progressive forces, but, notwithstanding, a great deal has been done to improve Turkey's military status as compared with that of her neighbours. A comparison of the present and last distribution of her forces will show a marked increase in the Turkish army since the beginning of 1912 as compared with the beginning of 1911, and one far more able to take the position to deal with any eventualities that may arise. Of these the most threatening was, and is, Greece. The reason why Turkey has not taken active measures regarding the Italian frontier is simply because events there had already proved themselves, and no further changes this year were necessary.

The year has been marked by two expeditionary expeditions, to the Yemen and Albania, and by a third breach of war with Italy. The latter, important though it may be as far as the interests of the whole Turkish army, which it has hardly affected, and as the operations in that theatre have been dealt with in another place, they are not touched upon further in this connection.

The last troubles for expeditionary purposes to the Arabs of the Yemen had only been with least several months above towards the end of 1910, it became evident that another widespread rebellion was brewing in the Yemen proper. The rising was headed by the Zaidi Imam Yahya, the Turkish posts and garrisons were surrounded, the roads to Hodeida were held by the insurgents, Sana, the capital and Government and military headquarters was, with its Turkish garrison, completely invested about the 12th January.

In Asir, where Abdullah the Turkish headquarters had been invested about the end of November, it was Said Idriss known as the false Mahdi, who led the revolt.

There was still hope that the two risings, though headed by chiefs of rival sects, and necessarily isolated from each other by great distances and natural features of the country were to some extent combined.

The Turkish Government were very loth to have the Yemen question raised. There was much divergence of view regarding the best method of dealing with it, and considerable reluctance to undertake an expedition was displayed. However, early in January an expedition on a large scale was decided on, but the despatch of troops was

further delayed in the hopes of a compromise being arrived at, and the expedition did not start in earnest from Constantinople till the beginning of February.

Izzet Pasha, the chief of the general staff, was appointed to command the expeditionary force which had as its primary objective the relief of Sana'a and the suppression of Imam Yahya, the pacification of Asir being left till later, as Abha was considered capable of holding out for some months.

The expeditionary force of thirty-four battalions and six mountain batteries was all landed at Hodeida by the end of March, but the relief operations commenced on the middle of February with the advance from Hodeida of six battalions which had already arrived. This force was gradually strengthened by the arrival of fresh troops, and, after stiff fighting, it effected the relief on the 24th February, of the important post of Menakha, where Izzet Pasha established his headquarters on the 15th March with nearly 15,000 men. Sana'a was relieved after severe fighting on the 3rd and 4th April from Sana'a a column marched to Hajjah, the pacification of which district was eventually effected in conjunction with a column operating from Hodeidah and the west. Meanwhile another column had been operating from the south, advancing from Mokha, via Taaz on Sana'a.

The Turkish operations which were completely successful, appear to have been skilfully conducted, though the advance was somewhat slow. The Arabs fought well on the defensive, but were quite incapable of offensive movements.

For the operations in Asir a force of twelve battalions had been collected in the Syrian ports, and was shipped during April and May to the Red Sea ports of Jidda and Konfuda, whence they co-operated with the movements of an Arab force under the Sherif of Mecca. By whom Abha was relieved on the 2nd July. Meanwhile another force composed of Kurdish levies which were no longer required in the Yemen, was being prepared to operate from the port of Jizan near which place the headquarters of this force was established practically unmolested by the Arabs, in order, no doubt, to save cost the Turks 3,000 men. The operations in Asir against Said Idriss who had taken refuge in his stronghold of Sabyeah, were still in progress when the Italian war broke out, and though this led to a temporary suspension of hostilities, the operations had again been resumed before the end of the year, and no decisive result had been obtained.

The position of the Turkish forces in the Yemen, though probably safe enough for some time, is not a very brilliant one, being cut off as they are, by the fact of the Italian war and by the blockade of the Red Sea coast, from all possibility of reinforcement.

In addition to the forty battalions of the expeditionary force (about 35,000 men) there are twenty-six battalions of the local army corps. Losses have been heavy, not only from the fighting, but from disease, and the effective of the whole army is not reliable data, as probably with the mark to save, the expeditionary force has been 30 per cent of its original effective, and that the number of men now available and effective in the Yemen and Asir is not 30,000.

A serious rising occurred in Albania early in March, having those Albanian chiefs, chiefly Christian, who inhabit the hill country to the north of Scutari and north Monte Negro for their object the deposition of Mussur Pasha, who had been appointed governor of Albania after the disarmament during the Albanian operations of 1910. At the time of the outbreak the Turkish troops in the country included 2,000 men, scattered in various small posts at Ipek, Dibra, Ochrida, Prizrend, Uskub, Monastir, Kossovo, Scutari, and Tirana, most of which were besieged by the insurgents. Three regiments of the 62nd redif division, three nizam battalions were shipped from Constantinople and reached Scutari on the 3rd April. Two battalions were moved from Ipek to Kossovo and two or three redif battalions of that district were embodied.

The general plan of operations was the early occupation, in sufficient strength, of the hill country to the north of Scutari and north Monte Negro, whilst the hill country to the south was to be kept in order by the gendarmerie and the disarmed Albanians

guard-houses occurred along the frontier further to the east, and it was decided to bring the Angora redif division from Anatolia to Berane, on the Montenegrin frontier. This division of twelve battalions was transported complete from Angora to Uskub in four and a half days.

Early in May Shevket Torghud issued a proclamation giving the Malissors six days in which to make their submission, and on the expiration of this delay he commenced to move along the Kastrati ridge into the heart of Malissia, while the co-operating force moved down again from Gusinye, and the insurgents were gradually ringed in a narrow strip between the heights held by the Turkish troops and the Montenegrin frontier. However, up to the middle of June, the two columns do not appear to have actually effected a junction, and, early in that month, a second proclamation was issued by Shevket Torghud again offering the tribesmen the choice between submission, on certain conditions, and annihilation. The military interest of these operations now ceases, and, though the insurgents did not give in, and desultory fighting continued, not always with results satisfactory to the Government forces, a decision was being arrived at by negotiations in which European public opinion and the attitude of Montenegro played an important part. The mobilisation of the redif in connection with this campaign, the facility with which they were transported to the theatre of operations, and their independence of mobilisation stores and other impedimenta, may all be considered satisfactory features.

By the end of April Shevket Torghud had a force in hand, about Scutari, of 18 nizam and 16 redif battalions, 3 field and 6 mountain batteries of quick firing guns, and 20 machine guns, totalling 20,000 men. During June, recruits and drafts for the nizam battalions were received to the number of nearly 10,000, a local redif division was consolidated, and, in July, the force operating in Malissia must have totalled about 5,000, exclusive of the Trebizond and Angora redif divisions, which were concentrating on the Montenegrin frontier further to the north-east, and of reinforcements and other troops sent to scattered Albanian outbreaks during there.

A special feature has been the very large number of men under arms at one time or another, and certain figures exist during the year, and a careful study of this question gives some remarkable results. It is difficult to determine the exact significance of the word "mobilisation" in Turkey, and to say when a unit should be considered to be mobilised or not. It may be said that a battalion sent on active service is mobilised, or that a state of war existing, a division in readiness for immediate action is mobilised. In the same way a redif division, the component battalions of which are embodied only as and when required as was shown in the case of the Angora division, could remain many days for training, but whose twelve battalions were moved up from their peace stations in Anatolia to take the field on the Albania at a few days' notice, using the whole battalion as the unit of transport, it may be said that some 150 nizam and 240 redif battalions were mobilised during the course of the year or that 300,000 men have been at one time or another in a state of mobilisation.

But the question of the word mobilisation must be differentiated from the general question of the term "war mobilisation." War mobilisation is often only partial, in no case can it be said to have been complete, war establishments are practically never arrived at, and the principle of mobilisation virtually consists in bringing a unit up to a given strength, differing according to circumstances, by adding the required number of men from the reserve or from other sources. When the unit is ready to take the field, little attention is paid to the provision of its theoretical mobilisation equipment of cars, carts, horses, &c. When therefore one talks of the number of battalions mobilised during the year one must remember that there has been no general mobilisation, nor anything approaching to what extent the Turkish army is capable of a war mobilisation on a large scale such as would be required in the case of a war against a European Power. These rather sketchy mobilisations have however shown that the Turks are able to put their battalions, with arms, ammunition, clothing, and equipment into the field with considerable rapidity, and that their men are satisfied with much less in the way of transport and baggage than is usually included in the European sense of the word mobilisation. Whether the want of a more complete provision of mobilisation stores would not tend disadvantageously in protracted operations against an army better provided in this respect is another question.

The mobilisation of nizam battalions for the Yemen and Albania expeditions was invariably effected by bringing up such units or drafts to a strength of from 500 to 600. When certain nizam divisions were mobilised on account of the war with Italy, drafts were added to bring battalions up to a strength of 800 or 1,000 according to circumstances. Beyond filling up the infantry cadres in this way to a given number, no

attempt was made to mobilise the division by providing horses, transport, or stores, or to complete the cadres of other arms and departments.

Redif battalions averaged about 800, rather less for the Yemen, while some of the Asiatic battalions embodied on account of the Italian war mustered over 1,000.

Each battalion embarking for the Yemen had about 50 pack-animals.

A rough total of the reserves called under arms during the year is as follows —

Hitherto untrained nizam units and redifs	185,000
Redif battalions embodied—For training only	35,000
Redif battalions embodied—For active service and for reasons of public security	130,000
Total	350,000

If we consider also the permanent standing army at 250,000, and the reservists called out to reinforce nizam battalions on mobilisation, we find that considerably over 600,000 men have been under arms at some time during the year.

The new recruiting law, discussion of which was commenced early in 1910, has not yet been passed by the Chamber of Deputies, in spite of urgent appeals by the Minister of War, and the whole question of recruitment is still in a state of chaos. The arrangements for calling up the recruits are carried on very irregularly, and recruits keep arriving all through the year instead of at stated periods. While the law may be in force it is clear that the military authorities take who they can get when they want them, and it is also evident that in spite of the enrolment of non-Moslems the supply of recruits is not equal to the demand, and that it is not possible under present arrangements to keep up a peace strength of 300,000, which is the aim of the Minister of War, on a three years basis. To avoid keeping men with the colours over the legal age they are taking young men who have not yet attained the legal age of enlistment, and the recruit supply has been anticipated by a full year. The trouble began in 1908 when, on account of the low state of its effectives in which the army was found at the time of the annexation of Bosnia and the declaration of independence by Bulgaria the 1909 men were then called to the colours to strengthen the army. This overdraft has not since been rectified, but has rather been increasing, with the result that in the class which completes its twentieth year of age in 1912 has already been taken in 1911. The men who completed their period of three years service in October were retained with the colours on account of the war, and the men who should have been called to take their place had already been anticipated, so that with next year's recruits who were called in October, there were at the end of the year five classes serving with the colours instead of three.

Among various items of military interest are the formation of a new frontier companies on the Russian Persian frontier, an extension of a system adopted in 1910 when twenty-eight similar companies were formed on the European frontiers.

A new organisation has been prepared for the Kurdistan cavalry force.

If the tribes could be embodied and trained on the lines foreseen in these regulations, as important a position to the strength of the Turkish army in those districts would result. The matter has been carefully studied, and it has been decided to form twenty four efficient tribal cavalry regiments from those tribes who formerly provided the sixty old regiments of Hamidieh. This is probably the maximum that could be formed, and is a testimony to the pretentions of the Hamidieh organisation. Except the new regulations, with their somewhat onerous obligations and drastic penalties, do not seem to appeal to the tribes concerned, and it is still doubtful if anything useful will be evolved from this organisation, at any rate for some time to come.

A school of gunnery has been started near Stamboul under a German officer, and the school of musketry at Maltepe has held three very successful courses during the year, about 100 officers having received instruction in each course. Both of these institutions appear to be very efficiently conducted, are managed and equipped on the most up-to-date lines, and should prove of great benefit to the Turkish army.

By an article of the Finance Law of the year, the pay of captains in the army was increased by 100 piastres a month, and that of subalterns by 50 piastres.

During the year, 90 quick firing field guns, ordered from Krupp in 1910, were received, also 180 machine-guns, ordered from Germany at different times.

There have been some important orders for war material during 1911 —

88 quick-firing field guns from Krupp.
72 quick-firing mountain guns from Creusot.
100 machine-guns, 100,000 common shell, 75,000 shrapnel, 40,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition, 200 ammunition wagons, mostly from Germany.

Two mountain howitzers were purchased direct from the Austrian Government for immediate delivery with a view to the Yemen expedition, and two mountain howitzers for the same purpose from Krupp.

An innovation in the Turkish army has been the purchase of six Marconi field sets of wireless telegraphy, and a naval wireless telegraph station has been established on the Ok Meidan, on the Pera side of the Golden Horn.

Early in the year, the Minister of War obtained the sanction of Parliament for the purchase of a fleet of military transports, with the result that six ships of 4,000 and 5,000 tons were bought, three in England and three in Germany. These ships were all used for the transport of troops to Yemen and Albania. The transport fleet on which the Minister of War has a claim when he requires it now consists of thirteen ships, five of which have naval officers and crews and are regularly administered by the Military Transport Department.

The tendency noted in 1910 towards the diminishing of the powers of the foreign officers in the gendarmerie is again observable in 1911. Early in the year a scheme was introduced by which the foreign officers were relegated to duties of inspection only, and removed from contact with questions affecting training, instruction, and discipline.

As a result of its gradual withdrawal from the control of foreign officers, a marked deterioration in the bearing and conduct of the gendarmerie has been observable in Macedonia. Otherwise the reorganisation of the gendarmerie has progressed satisfactorily though slowly throughout the Empire, but beyond the opening of a few more gendarmerie schools there is little to be reported, and the question of the supply of men remains as great a difficulty as ever.

An interesting feature was the appointment of a British officer to inaugurate the gendarmerie reorganisation in Tripoli in Africa. Very satisfactory results had been achieved when the war with Italy put an end to the experiment. Another effect of the war upon the Ottoman gendarmerie has been the dismissal of all the Italian reorganising officers, including General di Robilant who during the last few years, having abandoned hope of establishing an efficient gendarmerie had adopted a somewhat lethargic attitude.

Navy.

Administration and Organisation.

The organisation of the Admiralty and other departments have changed in only one respect during the last twelve months, i.e., the Gunnery Board is now a separate department instead of a section of department I.

The organisation is now as follows —

Department I, under a Captain. Naval intelligence, signalling, torpedo, mining, strategy and tactics, hydrographical, transports, educational, and navy list.

Department II, under a Captain.—Corresponds more or less to an admiral commanding a Home port. The naval barracks are under his command and he is also concerned with entry, drafting, and discharge of men. He is in charge of all the harbour ships and indirectly of ships of the active service squadron when they are in the Golden Horn.

Department III, under a Captain.—Corresponds with an admiral superintendent.
Department IV, under a Captain.—Director of stores, contracts, and victualling.
Department V, under a Captain.—Appointment of officers.
Department VI, under a Commander.—Gunnery.
Medical Department, under a Doctor R.A.
Accountant-General Department.
Secretary of the Admiralty.

The organisation can be better understood if it is remembered that in Turkey the Admiralty and dockyard adjoin one another. To take an example, the head of department III whose duties correspond as nearly as possible to an admiral superintendent in England also performs the duties of controller, in fact all heads of departments act in a dual position.

Attachés are now attached to the embassies at Washington, London, Berlin, and Rome, the latter also acting as attaché to the Turkish Legation at Athens.

None of the attachés obtain much information of value. A few young and intelligent officers have been sent to Greece to gather information.

Effecting Repairs.

The dockyard is divided into two parts, the docks and the repair shops.

The docks are in fair working order, having been repaired by a French firm. New caissons were supplied by Ansoldo et Cie., and a new dock-pumping plant supplied by Messrs. Gwynne and Co., is now in the course of construction.

No arrangements have yet been made to obtain a floating dock to take the new dreadnought ordered from Messrs. Armstrong, and commenced by them in August last.

A new graving dock and magazine at Ismidt has been thought about, and surveyors and engineers from Messrs. Armstrong came out in September last to make plans, but since their return nothing more has been heard of the matter.

The engineering department is now under Engineer-Captain Blake, a retired naval officer, who is the executive engineer and chief. He has one English engineer-lieutenant and six English foremen to assist him. His efforts up to the present have been directed towards obtaining a certain amount of modern plant, which has now arrived and centralising the work in the dockyard.

One of the chief difficulties is the matter of workmen, the majority of these are officers and do as they please, the engineer-in-chief has therefore to rely almost entirely upon a small number of civilian workmen for efficient work.

Another difficulty is the lack of the necessary material and stores to make good defects, and time is wasted while the buying of these is carried out.

Speaking generally, this department could turn out good work at a fairly rapid rate and cope with the needs of the present fleet if material of good quality was provided when wanted.

The constructor's department is in much the same state as it was three years ago, and there appears to be little chance of any improvement taking place until some foreign constructor is engaged. The present constructor (Ismail Hakki) is against such a course, but would not object to have a man under him. Efforts have been made to obtain the services of an assistant constructor but the idea has apparently been abandoned for the time.

The department cannot cope with the work that it is called upon to do, and a large number of repairs and alterations are carried out by local firms or with assistance from the engineers' department.

The torpedo store department is still at Constantinople, and manages to compete with repairs after a fashion.

The whole question of constructing a torpedo range has been under consideration, the building work to be carried out by a local firm and the machinery, &c., by Schwartzkopff. Parliament has been asked to vote the necessary money in next year's budget.

A new dreadnought battleship has been ordered and started at Messrs. Armstrong, and should be ready for delivery by June 1913.

About ten gunboats are believed to be at present under construction in France.

Tenders are now being called for, for gunboats intended for the revenue service under the Customs, tonnage varying from 30 to 100 tons, speed 10 knots, armament small Q.F. guns.

A number of motor-boats have been delivered by Messrs. Thorneycrofts for service on the Tigris and Euphrates.

Personnel.

Officers.

The naval school at Halki has now an English naval instructor in charge of instructions, he having arrived last September. There are about sixty cadets at present.

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under instruction A new scheme of entry and instruction is being brought out, and hopes are entertained that it will come into force shortly.

The entry of cadets has been stopped since the declaration of the constitution, as after the last entry, when 20 cadets had successfully passed their examination for the 20 vacancies, no less than 120 boys appeared at the school on the opening day, all of whose relatives and friends had persuaded the authorities to let them in.

Executive and engineer cadets used to be entered separately, the training of the former taking place at the naval school at Halki, lasting six years, and of the latter, at the engineering college and workshops in the dockyard, which lasted eight years, this, however, is expected to be altered. A number of cadets entered under this system are still under training

In September 1910 the following officers were sent to the British navy for instruction:—

Six to specialise in navigation for a period of one year.
Five ditto gunnery ditto.
Four ditto torpedo ditto.
Two constructors for a period of two years.
Four engineer officers for service afloat for one and a-half years.
Two ditto dockyard training for two years.

The officers sent for navigation, gunnery, and torpedo returned in September 1911; and a corresponding number have taken their places.

The officers who have returned appear to have profited by their instruction and experiences as much as could be expected under the circumstances, considering that their knowledge of the English language was scanty, and they had no thorough elementary grounding in their work when they left for England

In future, officers will probably spend time in England, learning the language, prior to joining the ships and schools

In addition to those who have undergone instructions in the English naval schools and ships, some officers have been instructed in the management of motor-boats at Messrs. Thorneycroft's works, and others in wireless telegraphy at Marconi's works.

In September last endeavours were made by the Admiralty to obtain the services of a German commander for torpedo duties and command of the destroyer flotilla, and of a German engineer officer for turbine instructional duties in the dockyard, but this has fallen through now.

The British staff now consists of 1 rear-admiral, 1 navigating lieutenant, 1 gunnery lieutenant, 1 engineer officer for service afloat, 1 secretary, 1 naval instructor as director of the naval college at Halki, 1 retired engineer captain as chief engineer of the dockyard, 1 engineer lieutenant as assistant to the engineer-in-chief, and 6 foremen.

The period for which the executive officers, engineer officer for service afloat, and the secretary were lent is up in April 1912.

Men.

Conscripts are selected annually by ballot, according to the number required, from all Moslems and Turkish subjects of the age of 20.

The entire arrangements as regards obtaining conscripts are made by the War Office, which has recruiting stations all over the country.

The Admiralty apply to the War Office for the number of men required, and these are detailed for naval service by the military authorities.

The military authorities are naturally very careful to keep any men having a knowledge of a trade, or who can read and write, for military service, which means that the navy suffers accordingly. They do not insure that the recruits detailed for the navy are men from the coast, and there is no doubt that the majority of naval recruits come from the interior.

This has become so notorious that parliament has recently approved of the transfer of the selection of conscripts intended for the navy, from the army authorities to the harbour masters, who are stationed at every big and small port on the Turkish coasts. This should work much better, but the details for putting it into force have not yet been worked out

Naval conscripts do five years as against the army conscripts' three, but the fact that army reservists are very often called out, whereas the naval reservists are not, counterbalances this.

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Though shipping generally, and certain private individuals, had suffered heavily under it, in other respects it has done more harm to Turkish than to Greek commerce.

Brigandage.—During the greater part of the year little had been heard of brigandage in the Smyrna vilayet, and though frequent attempts to capture the notorious brigand chief Tchakirdjah had failed, they at any rate served to keep him quiet until the autumn, when after carrying off two individuals, he was pursued, and at length killed in the fight that followed.

Syria.

The year 1911 has been uneventful in Syria. A split occurred in the Beirout branch of the Committee of Union and Progress between the Turkish and the Arab members, and there has been a general increase in the feeling of discontent in Syria at the neglect by the Government of what the Arabs consider their constitutional rights. The administration is still weak in many departments, principally owing to the incapacity of the subordinate officials. This is particularly the case in the smaller towns such as Haifa

The expedition sent into the Hauran in 1910 appears to have effectually quelled the Druze revolt, and though fears were entertained in Damascus that the withdrawal of the troops would be the signal for another rising, the Druzes and Bedouins have on the whole been quiet. Sami Pasha has not merely contented himself with repressive measures, but endeavoured to introduce reforms in the Hauran, the most important of which will be a series of regulations marking the spheres of pasturage of the nomad tribes, and excluding certain tribes from entering the Hauran, while others are to remain in fixed districts. He also appointed a special council to study agricultural conditions and possible developments in the Hauran.

The news of the declaration of war with Italy was on the whole received with comparative calm in Syria. In the early part of November, however, the exaggerated reports in the Press of Turkish victories caused a general feeling among the Christian population, who feared that these reports might cause a Moslem rising. At Beirout there was a panic among the Christians, many of whom left the town and fled inland At Haifa the situation was serious enough, in the opinion of His Majesty's consul, to warrant the dispatch of a British warship Such a step, however, proved unnecessary, as the local authorities in all parts of Syria did everything in their power to maintain order.

During the latter part of 1911 reports were received of a concentration at Gaza of Turkish troops, whose object was to attempt to cross through Egypt into Tripoli

The Yemen and Assyr.

As appeared from last year's report, the Imam Yahya, towards the close of the year, was collecting a large force, and he and Seyyid Idriss, having agreed to sink their differences, there was every indication that the rising of the Imam in the Yemen and of Seyyid Idriss in Assyr was an eventuality that would cause much trouble to the Turkish Government in 1911.

The two provinces boast a population of some 6,000,000, and their history has always been one of dispute with the Central Government

Hussein Hilmi Pasha, who is well acquainted with the Yemen, has constantly advised that an arrangement should be come to with the Imam Yahya, by which the latter would control the mountainous parts of the Yemen, where the authority of the Turkish Government has always been very doubtful, and the Turkish authorities would occupy the coast. But Talaat Bey was opposed to such an arrangement, and the situation was thus allowed to drift until it became serious.

The complaint of Seyyid Idriss was that the Government of the new régime had undertaken to introduce reforms into the country, but that instead of it his officials were ill-treating the population in the collection of taxes, and a regular system of turkifying these Arab regions was being adopted He sent two emissaries to Constantinople with an ultimatum demanding the dispatch within a month of a Turkish commissioner to discuss reforms No attention was however paid, and he consequently declared himself in open rebellion.

The insurgents were reported to number some 80,000 men, of whom 60,000 were under the orders of the Imam Yahya, who also possessed some guns which he had captured from the Turks at Sana'a.

In the view of the Government an expedition of 30,000 men would suffice to stifle these two movements, but the despatch of such a force in the absence of sufficient transports

was naturally surrounded with difficulties. Extreme leisureliness marked their preparations, the real reason being that the expedition was unpopular among the Moslem Anatolian troops, who had therefore to be replaced by troops from the European provinces of the Empire.

As the seriousness of the situation increased, more activity was displayed, and a force of thirty-one battalions of infantry, with artillery and mountain guns was hurriedly despatched under Izzet Pasha, Chief of the General Staff. To make a greater impression, the Government selected one of their largest cruisers, the "Hamidieh," to convey the general to Jeddah. Gunboats were also sent to the Red Sea, to check the smuggling in arms by the rebels, but whether they have been successful or not it is difficult to say. It is understood that they have not made one capture.

At the outset of the rising the insurgents surrounded Menakha and Sanaa, and cut them off from all communication with the outer world. The siege of Menakha lasted a month, but it was relieved without difficulty by Colonel Riza Bey on the 24th February, and the Arabs then concentrated round Sanaa. During the next month the insurrection made rapid progress, several Turkish outposts falling into the insurgents' hands. These were, however, defeated with great loss in the 2nd April, before Sanaa, and the town was relieved two days later. The Arabs had no idea of using their guns, nor of the art of war, and fought altogether differently, and, instead of object being to avoid risking his skin any more than he could possibly help.

With the relief of Sanaa the campaign virtually came to an end.

Some more trouble was experienced on leaving Hail, the Assyrians.

Johanna, the capital, was besieged by the rebels, and for some time was in imminent danger of falling. A relief force under the Vali of the Yemen was surprised and cut to pieces at Bekzan, the Turks losing between 1,000 and 1,500 killed, 400 wounded, and 6 guns. The Arab losses were also considerable, about 1,000 dead being left on the field. A second relief force under the Grand Sherif of Mecca met with greater success and entered Hajjam Bay. As was the case at the Yemen, the relief of the capital practically put an end to the insurrection, and the insurgents withdrew into the mountains. The heavy losses sustained by the Turks in this campaign can be accounted for largely by the prevalent epidemics, principally cholera, that broke out amongst the troops. Of the 5,000 regulars with the Grand Sherif's expedition, it is admitted that 800 were lost through sickness.

The result of the Yemen campaign may be summed up as follows. At a cost of between £T 3,000,000 and £T 4,000,000 for the despatch and maintenance in the field of a force of 30,000 men, Imam Yahya was induced to accept the Porte's terms, which were, however, to be kept absolutely secret. There was to be a truce for forty years, the Imam was to restore all prisoners, and he was to enjoy "complete liberty in the religious commands."

The outbreak of the Turco-Italian war had also its effect in pacifying the Yemen. On the annexation of Tripoli on the 2nd October, the Imam proclaimed a holy war, and offered to place 100,000 Arabs at the disposal of the Government. The latter, however, were too much harassed by the action of the Italians in preventing the despatch of troops and munitions to the Yemen, the most obvious route, to consider other means of bringing back the rebels and wavering.

Wavell Case

In November 1911 Mr Arthur Wavell, an Englishman, accredited to the Royal Geographical Society, arrived at Hodeidah disguised as a Moslem, with the intention of exploring unknown parts of Arabia.

The local authorities suspected the real object of his visit, and refused him all facilities of travel. He managed to reach Sanaa, where, however, he was forcibly detained, and, after escaping and being again caught, was imprisoned, he was escorted to Hodeidah.

Representations were made by the embassy to the Sublime Porte, and compensation was demanded for the ill-treatment of Mr Wavell's. It was found that the Turkish Government were able to show that Mr Wavell was in the wrong, and that he had, moreover, travelled with a passport made out under the name of Abdul Mehmed. It was accordingly decided not to press the claim further.

Mesopotamia

Bagdad

At the end of 1910 Nazim Pasha, the Vali of Bagdad, had, by various arbitrary acts of interference with the rights of foreign subjects, provoked disputes with the

British, German, Austrian, Italian, and American consulates. The principal cause of complaint against him was his high-handed and illegal action in forcibly expropriating and demolishing the property of foreign subjects in connection with projected improvements in the town of Bagdad, and also his intention of running a street through the grounds of the British consulate. Whether Nazim Pasha was acting on orders received from the Central Government, these orders being issued with the object of making his position impossible for him and thus discrediting him, cannot be definitely known.

But the complaints against him were not confined to foreigners, and charges of various natures were brought against him. In any case, at the beginning of March, 1911, it began to be rumoured that he was about to be recalled, and the official order for his recall was received on the 17th of that month, while he was instructed by telegraph to transfer the civil and military government provisionally to Youssouf Pasha, Vali of Mosul pending the appointment of his successor.

Nazim Pasha left Bagdad for Bussorah on the 21st March.

Nazim Pasha was replaced by Djemal Bey, formerly Vali of Adana, who arrived at his post about the middle of August. From speeches which he has made he seems inclined to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, and to be pronouncedly anti-foreign in his sympathies.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in inducing the Porte to admit the illegality of the expropriations ordered by Nazim Pasha. Fresh encroachments on Messrs Lynch's property were contemplated early in the year, and enquiries at Bagdad elicited the fact that the former expropriations from which the same firm had suffered were illegal. Representations at the Porte at first failed to elicit any satisfactory recognition of the illegality of these proceedings, but a promise was obtained that the further encroachments contemplated should not be proceeded with. Compensation for losses already sustained was demanded. The sum of £5,400 was claimed, this sum being based on figures supplied by His Majesty's consul-general at Bagdad.

The Porte promised a enquiry as soon as the new Vali of Bagdad should arrive at his post, and from the language used by the Sublime Porte it was understood that the vali had started with instructions to institute a joint enquiry with His Majesty's consul-general. The new vali, however, on his arrival stated that he had no such instructions, but that he was simply ordered to report to the Central Government. There were no funds at the disposal of the Bagdad municipality, and it was only after repeated pressure extending over many months that, on the 30th of November, a cheque for £5,400 was received from the Sublime Porte in settlement of the various claims at Bagdad, Kadhimain, and Kerbala. The Sublime Porte stated at the same time that the case of the claim for compensation by the Brothers Abdul Ali, ice manufacturers, on account of the enforced lowering of their prices, was still forming a subject of correspondence with the local authorities.

The state of the vilayet in general was one of comparative quiet, though a certain amount of trouble was caused by the lawless behaviour of the Shammar Arabs, against whom a small expedition, under Colonel Riza Bey, was sent early in the year. The expedition was however, recalled in April before it had been able to effect much. The result was that the Shammar returned to their lawless mode of life, and the usual complaints of outrages committed by them were numerous.

A complaint was received late in the year to the effect that the trade routes into Persia had been practically closed for the last two months owing to insecurity in those regions, whereby British commerce was suffering to a considerable extent.

Some progress was made with the Mesopotamian navigation works. The temporary agreement for the construction of the works to be carried on by the firm of Sir John Jackson was signed by Nazim Pasha on the 13th February. Work was begun at once, but rapid progress could not be looked for owing to the lack of funds placed at the disposal of the contractors by the Turkish Government. Trouble arose at the beginning of August in connection with the transport of material for the irrigation works. Messrs. Jackson were empowered under their contract to make what arrangements they choose for the transport of their material in the event of the Turkish steamship administration refusing to undertake it. The latter declared their inability to undertake transport via the Euphrates, and accordingly Messrs Jackson entered into negotiations with Messrs, Lynch in London for the transport to be carried out on that river. When however on the 1st August Messrs Lynch sent a steamboat up the Euphrates, flying a Turkish flag, with 130 tons of coal for the works, the acting vali protested, and the protest was upheld by the new vali on his arrival. At the request of Messrs, Lynch the embassy was instructed to urge the Turkish Government not to obstruct the carrying out of the

Jackson-Lynch contract, but Messrs. Jackson's agent in Constantinople, being of the opinion that Messrs. Lynch desired to use his firm as a means of eventually establishing a service of steamers on the Euphrates (though the firm undertook to give a written promise that this should not be the case), and that Messrs Lynch had acted wrongly in not apprising the Turkish Government of their intentions, begged that no representations on their behalf should be made which might compromise his firm with the Turkish Government. Accordingly no official action was taken at the Porte.

Messrs. Lynch had some difficulty with the Turkish Government in connection with another matter. Owing to an accumulation of about 4,500 tons of cargo at Bussorah, they requested permission for their steamers to tow each a second barge until the accumulation was worked off. The permission was obtained and taken advantage of on the 16th May, it being understood that it was to hold good only until the actual accumulation had been dealt with. On the 19th July, the acting vali demanded the discontinuance of this arrangement on the ground that the accumulation had been worked off. This was true of the original accumulation, but there still remained an accumulation of 3,800 tons. The permission to tow an extra barge was therefore renewed until this amount of cargo should have been carried up the river, and was finally granted.

The war does not seem to have aroused much excitement, though at the beginning of December, Said Mahomet Kazim (?) Khorassani, Mujtehed of Nejef, issued a fetva proclaiming a holy war against Italy, Russia, and England, on account of Italian action in Tripoli and Russian and British action in Persia. It was said that this fetva was forcibly extorted from the Mujtehed by the kaimakam of Nejef, who was summoned to Bagdad to answer this charge. In reply to representations at the Porte, it was declared that the Mujtehed had issued the fetva on his own responsibility. Meanwhile, the Mujtehed died, and some days later a second fetva, more moderate in tone, was issued by the Mujtehed Said Yezdi, in which no reference was made to Great Britain. The violent anti-foreign press campaign which had been waged since the issue of the first fetva, was also checked, probably by the vali, who promised to do what he could unofficially in this direction, and by the end of the year the excitement had practically died down.

Bussorah Vilayet.

The situation in this vilayet has been far from satisfactory during the past year. A state of lawlessness existed in the town of Bussorah itself at the beginning of the year, when attacks were made by marauders on the bazaar, and on the house of a Greek merchant under British protection. In the latter case, representations to the vali failed to produce any satisfactory result, and the idea of despatching a ship to Bussorah was only abandoned on reinforcements being sent from Bagdad. The attitude of the vali towards His Majesty's consul was afterwards modified by a warning received from the Central Government, and he promised to take steps to discover and punish the offenders.

Affairs in the Muntefik necessitated the despatch of a military expedition. Saadun Pasha, one of the most influential men of this region, had in the past been used by the Turkish authorities as a means of controlling the local sheikhs but his ill-success in a campaign against the Dhadir tribe in March had lost him a good deal of prestige, and his cruelty to one of the leading sheikhs of the Beidar tribe produced a revolt against his domination. Saadun was attacked and blockaded in Nasirieh. A small Turkish force was sent up the river to that place in June, but the military operations were somewhat indecisive. A mixed civil and military commission, appointed to enquire into the disturbances, arrived at Bussorah on the 13th July. The commission decided that, as a preliminary, Saadun should be arrested. This was done by luring him on board the "Marmaris," where he was detained, and subsequently sent up to Bagdad. The commission completed its report in October, but the conclusions arrived at are not yet definitely known. It is believed, however, that they reported that the difficulty resolved itself into a "land question," which might be resolved by expropriating the present landowners, powerful chiefs and sheikhs who oppress the Arabs and instigate tribal disturbances for their own ends, and dividing the land in small parcels among the minor sheikhs. It is doubtful, however, whether such a question could be solved in so simple a manner.

The dispute between Saadun and Sheikh Mubarak was, on the other hand, peacefully settled early in the year.

Complaints were received in the autumn of the disturbed state of the lower Euphrates and Tigris. In August, some grain lighters were plundered and burnt near

Ozair by some Arabs of the Al-Lu-Mohamed tribe reinforced by some Arabs of the Beni Turuf tribe of Hawizeh in Persia, under the leadership of a certain Abdul Kerim, belonging to the former. Abdul Kerim declared that his only object was to make a demonstration in protest against the outlawing of the leading members of his family, and the assigning to other sheikhs of certain lands which had for the last fifty years been farmed out to the Seihud (Abdul Kerim's) family, in virtue of which they had made a deposit of £T 12,750 with the Governor of Amara. A settlement was proposed whereby half of these lands were to be granted to the Seihud family, and it was expected that this would prove a satisfactory arrangement. The river was reopened to navigation on the 7th August.

In September the feeling of insecurity on the two rivers was so general that His Majesty's consul at Bussorah suggested that a gunboat should be sent to patrol the Shatt-el-Arab. H.M.S. "Odin" arrived at Mohammerah about the 20th September, to patrol the river between that place and Fao, and, thanks to this precaution, no cases of piracy occurred.

With regard to political affairs in Bussorah itself, the most notable fact was the decline, amounting almost to the disappearance, of the local Committee of Union and Progress. It was replaced by a "Moderate Liberal Club," founded by Seyyid Talib, deputy for Bussorah, having as its vice-president the former president of the local Committee of Union and Progress. The programme differs slightly from that of the Committee of Union and Progress, though the Moderate Liberals appear to have abandoned the policy of Turkification in favour of that of equal treatment for all nationalities. Seyyid Talib, who has not a good past record, professes to be Anglophile. He owes his influence mainly to the position and wealth of his family.

Djela, Bey Vali of Bussorah, was replaced by Hassan Riza Bey, who arrived on the 20th September. Djela made no concealment of his anti-foreign sympathies. The new Vali, on the other hand, is reported to give the impression of being a reasonable and enlightened man.

Mosul Vilayet.

The Government of Mosul was at the beginning of the year, almost entirely in the hands of a clique of corrupt notables, many of them members of the Committee of Union and Progress, and foremost among whom was the notorious Sadik Pasha who frustrated the vali's honest attempts at reform. Nazim Pasha sent Safwat Bey to enquire into the affairs of the Mosul vilayet, and the first result of the enquiry was the dismissal of three members of the administrative council of Sheyranieh. In Mosul, where similar action might well be expected, no outcry was raised by the reactionary paper "Nejm" against Nazim Pasha and against foreign influence and civilisation. This led His Majesty's Consul to protest to the vali and the Turkish editor expressed regret at what had been published. The situation improved subsequently, fresh elections being held for the administrative council, as a result of repeated instructions from the Central Government, hitherto ignored. The new elections necessitated the withdrawal of Sadik, and it thus seemed possible for Tahir Pasha, the vali to carry out some of his contemplated reforms.

A somewhat fruitless punitive expedition was sent against the Jelki tribe of Kurds in September, to avenge the murder of some Christian shepherds. The murderers were left unpunished.

Persian Gulf.

In May 1910, His Majesty's Government had protested against the expressed intention of the Turkish authorities to place a light at Fao and to replace the missing buoys at the bar belonging to the British India Company, on the ground that this work had always been carried out by His Majesty's Government. His Majesty's Government approached the company early in the year, requesting them to lose no time in replacing their buoys, but, meanwhile, the Turks were preparing buoys and sending them down the river, and had commissioned the "Marmaris" to lay them.

In February, H.M.S. "Palinurus" and H.M.S. "Odin" had orders to proceed to the spot with all speed, to prevent the "Marmaris" from interfering with the buoys, and to inform the commander that they were the property of His Majesty's Government. The "Odin," on arrival, erected a tide-pole off Telegraph Creek without obtaining the permission of the Turkish authorities, and a few days later the Turks had two buoys approximately in the positions occupied by the two other buoys which had been lost. Eventually they placed five buoys and other marks at the Fao bar, together with a lightship, and effected a change in the position of the floating light there.

Rumours were current in Bussorah at the beginning of June that the Turks contemplated removing the British Lloyds from the Bar, and in consequence the Turkish Government was warned that a ship of war would be sent to prevent any tampering with them. H.M.S. "Alert" arrived at Bussorah on the 18th June, and remained there till the 23rd.

Bahrein.

An incident arose towards the end of March, in connection with the arrest, by order of the Vali of Bussorah, of three natives of Bahrein. Warrants were issued charging them with "disturbing the peace," but the real reason for their arrest was their refusal to take out Ottoman passports, on the ground that they were already furnished with Bahrein papers.

In response to a protest by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah the Vali sent a written reply stating that "the Turkish Government did not acknowledge that natives of Bahrein are under the protection of His Majesty's Government."

In consequence of representations at the Sublime Porte, orders were sent for their release. These were at first ignored by the Vali, who adopted an insolent tone towards His Majesty's Consul. A written communication was accordingly made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating the case of His Majesty's Government with regard to the question of the status of Bahreinis, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners and the issue of Bahrein passports "as heretofore," and urging that a severe reprimand should be administered to the Vali.

The latter was released, but the Vali's assertion was verbally disowned by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, though all attempts to obtain a written disavowal failed, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs declined to dispose of the claim for compensation being granted.

In connection with this case it is satisfactory to note that in July a consular dragoman was attacked in a coffee-shop at Bussorah by the President of the Court of First Instance, who had a case of Bahrein subjects pending, and had to suspend the sentence of the court. In the case of the Bahreinis arrested in March, the attendance of a dragoman was not allowed by the local authorities.

TURKEY IN AFRICA

Tripoli.

The question created throughout Europe by the Moroccan question had scarcely begun to subside when there arose again the spectre of approaching hostilities between Italy and Turkey over Tripoli.

In January, the Italian Ambassador had threatened Rifaat Pasha with a naval demonstration over the expulsion of the Senussi Awlad Amran, an Irredentist, Graziani, and although this had been peacefully settled, the press campaign between the two countries continued. The Italian papers complained of the systematic opposition shown by the Vali Ibrahim Pasha and other Turkish officials to Italian interests, and the local Arabic papers protested against the conduct of Italian consular officers and the general excesses of Italian subjects. Finally, the abduction of a young Italian girl in Adana and her conversion to Islamism, the murder of two Italian subjects at Derna, and the failure of the authorities to find the culprits in both cases, and last but not least the prospect of a change in the balance of power in the Mediterranean, brought matters to a head, and the Italian Government were urged by the press to seek compensation in Tripoli.

It came, however, as a surprise when, on the 22nd September, it was reported that the Italian fleet was mobilising at Spezzia. On the 26th September, His Majesty's Government were informed of the intention of Italy "to settle the Tripoli question without delay." Two days later cruisers were sighted off the Tripoli coast, and on the 29th the Turkish Government were presented with an ultimatum. The note stated that the obstruction shown by the Turkish authorities to Italy's interests had become so intolerable that she found herself compelled to occupy Tripoli, and that the Turkish reply, accepting this occupation, must be received within twenty-four hours. The reply was conciliatory, but as it did not give entire satisfaction, war was declared on the 30th September.

The Turkish Ambassador in London begged His Majesty's Government to intervene, but he was told that it was rather to Italy's allies that his Government should turn. Germany and Austria, however, beyond expressing regret, did nothing, a personal letter

from the Sultan to the German Emperor was equally unavailing, and the one crumb of comfort for Turkey was a vigorous denunciation of Italy's action in practically the entire continental, and especially the British, press.

The Powers at once declared their neutrality, and His Majesty's Government announced that they could not allow Egyptian waters or territory to be used as a base of operations.

The day war was declared, Hakki Pasha resigned. His successor, Said Pasha, strained every nerve to induce the Powers to stop the war, and, as usual in times of crisis, the Turks looked to England as their only possible saviour. But mediation was impossible, as Italy announced that she could never evacuate Tripoli and Turkey that she could never consent to any loss of territory.

Italy's published case was soon discarded as offering no genuine reason for her aggressive action. Indeed although she had many legitimate grievances against Turkey, especially in Tripoli where the Vali, Ibrahim Pasha, seems to have been told to obstruct Italians in any way he could, there can be little doubt that the chief factor in the situation was the prospect of a Franco-German agreement which would practically assure a French protectorate over Morocco.

Feelings ran high throughout the Empire in favour of the expulsion of all Italians. A boycott of Italian goods was begun at Salonica, and these were further subjected to a 100 per cent. duty. All lights on the Turkish coasts were ordered to be extinguished, lighters for transport purposes were prohibited from leaving ports where they were lying and being sold. To this, however, His Majesty's Government had to object. Volunteers were called for by the Committee of National Defence, and troops were landed at Samos, and Mytilene. At the very outset of the war, Turkey, as was to be expected, lost command of the sea, and thus her forces of some 5,000 regulars in Tripoli and Cyrenaica were deprived of all means of obtaining reinforcements. Anxiety was felt as to the whereabouts of the Turkish fleet, but it managed to reach the Dardanelles in safety. The British officers, who were acting as instructors, were told that their services must be restricted to such as were calculated not to assist the belligerents.

In the meantime events in Tripoli moved rapidly. A panic occurred in the town on the 1st October, numbers of Jews and Maltese taking refuge at the British Consulate. On the 3rd, the authorities refusing to surrender, the town was bombarded and occupied on the 5th after a short resistance. The Turkish troops, under Nashed Bey, on whom, as senior officer, the command had devolved after Ibrahim Pasha had been recalled, had already withdrawn inland. Cholera soon broke out among the natives, and rumours were spread about of dissensions between the Turks and Arabs.

On the 12th, the first Italian contingent, numbering 15,000 men, landed, under the command of General Caneva, who assumed the title of Governor-General of Tripoli and Cyrenaica.

Although the Powers agreed that they could do nothing to put a stop to hostilities the representatives of the Five Great Powers at Constantinople were instructed, in accordance with a suggestion of Count Aehrenthal, to watch for a favourable opportunity with a view to offering their mediation. Soon after the war began it looked as if there might be complications in the Balkans. The sinking of a Turkish destroyer off Prevesa, on the Albanian coast, by an Italian squadron under the command of the Duke d'Abruzzi, failed Austria with apprehensions. Turkish troops were hurriedly sent to the vilayets of Yanina and Thessaly to resist any Italian landing. Greece became alarmed and mobilised two battalions at Arta.

The strongest representations were made by the Austrian Ambassador at Rome, but the Italian Government announced that they intended to land men only at Tripoli, and that they would do everything to maintain peace in the Balkans. Fortunately Greece's fears were soon dispelled, the Turkish Government explaining that the steps she was taking on the frontier were for defensive purposes only.

After the occupation of Tripoli the Italians took possession of the offices of the Ottoman Debt and expelled the officials. Sir Adam Block telegraphed to the Italian Government pointing out that certain revenues in Tripoli were ceded to the Public Debt, which although a State department had nevertheless an international character. Assurances were, however, received that the interests of the bondholders would be duly safeguarded.

In Turkey further measures were taken, after the occupation, against Italians. A decree was issued stating that they no longer benefited by the Capitulations, and a few days afterwards all Italian journalists were ordered to leave the country within twenty-four hours.

The efforts of His Majesty's Government at this time were chiefly concentrated

on securing the neutralisation of the Red Sea, or at any rate the relighting of the lights. The Italian Government had expressed their willingness to exclude the Red Sea from the area of hostilities provided the Turkish Government undertook to send no munitions of war or troops to and from the Red Sea either by the Hedjaz Railway, Suez Canal, or Mediterranean. The Sublime Porte could not agree to the condition as regards the Hedjaz Railway, and insisted on having freedom to transport their troops between Turkish ports in the Red Sea and elsewhere in order to repatriate men invalided in the Yemen and to replace them there. After a little time the Italian Government gave way about the Hedjaz Railway and later agreed to light all their lights in the Red Sea. The Turkish Government, who at the time thought that they were in any case more or less immune from attack, refused to relight their lights independently of the general question of neutralisation, but they offered to confine the transport of their troops to the homeward journey only. The Italian Government, however, insisted on their conditions, and consequently the negotiations fell through, and the lights remained extinguished. They were relit, however, during the passage of the King on His Majesty's voyage to India.

In Tripoli some heavy fighting was taking place. The Tobruk fort, Derna, and Khoms were captured by the Italians towards the middle of October. On the 18th the Italian troops landing on the beach at Jubana were attacked by a large force of Turks and Arabs, who were repulsed, losing 200 killed and many wounded. Benghazi was bombarded and taken on the 21st October, the British Consulate being damaged and a number of people in the town being killed. On the 23rd an engagement took place at Sciara Sciat on the outskirts of Tripoli. Arabs, who had remained in the town and had apparently led the Italians into thinking that they were satisfied with their new masters, suddenly dashed out of houses and attacked the Italians in the narrow and tortuous streets. So completely were the latter taken by surprise that, at one spot alone, they are said to have lost 300 killed out of 400 men. This treacherous attack seems to have unnerved them, and in the disarming of the native population that followed they are alleged to have shot down ruthlessly any Arabs, including women and children, that came in their way. Fantastic and gruesome details of horrors at once filled the columns of the English and portions of the continental press, and a protest was addressed by the Porte to the Powers, but there is no doubt that the alleged massacre was greatly exaggerated.

On the 26th fighting took place at the Bomchiana Wells and Hany. The Turks and Arabs who are said to have numbered about 9,000 men, attacked with great bravery and at one moment broke the Italian centre. They were, however, repulsed, leaving about 1,000 killed.

For the first time in the history of war, aeroplanes were used by the Italians and found to be of great service in locating the enemy.

To clear the coast near the coast of Arabs now became a paramount necessity, and this was found to be no easy task. Indeed, it was duly becoming more manifest that Italy had embarked on her adventure with a notion of the opposition she would meet with nor the more so difficulties that an expedition into the hinterland over huge expanses of desert would involve. It would still have been easy for her to make peace on favourable terms while leaving only a shadow of nominal sovereignty to the Sultan. Various personal suggestions were made by the Grand Vizier, but any chances of an early armistice or peace disappeared when on the 5th November Italy proclaimed the annexation of the two provinces. A wave of indignation swept over Turkey, and a protest was immediately addressed to the Powers, in which it was pointed out with some truth, that the Italians had possession only of the coast towns and dared not venture beyond the range of their ships' guns. Threats were made in the press that if the Powers recognised the annexation Turkey would denounce the Capitulations.

Fresh life was thus given to the war, and in order to bring further pressure to bear on the Turkish Government, the Italians hinted at the possibility of their having to extend hostilities to the Aegean Sea and the Dardanelles.

In October, Bulgaria had expressed much concern at the concentration of Turkish troops on her frontier and had threatened to mobilise unless they were withdrawn. Assurances were received from the Turkish Government that the reservists were called out only in accordance with a pre-determined programme of training and instruction, and this calmed her; but it was felt that hostilities in the Aegean Sea and along the Turkish European coast might easily cause fresh complications.

Both Russia and Austria expressed their fears of any action against the mainland and sufficiently impressed the Italian Government to make them abandon their intention.

The possibility of Italian action in the Dardanelles caused much alarm at Constantinople, and the Porte appealed to the Powers to prevent it, declaring that they would have to take such measures of defence as seemed necessary. Troops and guns were hurriedly despatched to Bigha and Xeros Bay, and contact mines, which had been obtained from Germany, were held in readiness to be laid at the first approach of the Italian fleet. As any closing of the straits would have seriously affected British and other neutral interests the Powers exchanged views as to whether any action could be taken at Rome and Constantinople that would ensure freedom of navigation. But, owing, perhaps, to the possibility of the Powers intervening, and to the risk of losing several ships which the forcing of the Dardanelles would entail, the Italian Government announced their intention of confining "at any rate for the present" operations to Tripoli.

A few towns such as Mokha, Port Sheikh Said and Akaba were bombarded, whereupon the Turkish Government protested to the Powers that Akaba was an unfortified place and that consequently in bombarding it the Italians had violated the Hague Convention. Towards the end of November they appealed, but in vain, to His Majesty's Government that they should approach the Italian Government once more on the matter of the neutralisation of the Red Sea, but no steps were taken as the Italians now hoped that troubles in the Yemen would come to their aid and serve as a lever to force the Turks to give way.

The situation by now was more or less one of stale-mate.

The Italian Government had abandoned the idea of extending hostilities, they were unable for the moment to push forward into the hinterland of Tripoli, and they saw, or imagined they saw, the Turks being constantly reinforced by officers and guns &c., from across the frontiers of Tunis and Egypt, even alleging in the latter case that it was being done with the connivance if not the active help of the Egyptian coast guards.

Assurances were given by His Majesty's Government, in reply to their repeated complaints, that every precaution was being taken to prevent a violation of neutrality and that their reports must have been inaccurate. The matter was brought to the notice of the Turkish Government, but the Minister of War denied that they were taking any steps to encourage the smuggling of men and arms through Egyptian territory, and said they recognised the futility of such attempts being made. Early in November the Italians drew attention to the presence of a post of a Turkish officer and twenty five men at Sollum, a place which had already given rise to some discussion owing to the frontier being still unfortified, and said that they would have to take it unless it was removed by Egyptian troops. On the matter being mentioned to the Turkish Minister of War orders were sent to the commander of the post to withdraw across into Tripoli.

The measures taken by the Egyptian Government to enforce strict neutrality were somewhat resented by the Turks, seeing that arms and ammunition were freely allowed to come through Germany and Austria, Italy's allies, and several articles appeared in the Turkish press representing the unfriendly attitude of His Majesty's Government.

About the middle of December the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs suggested to the Powers that his Government should approach the Italian and Turkish Governments with a view to effecting a settlement; but as the question of sovereignty over Tripoli was still the obstacle, and neither Italy nor Turkey seemed anxious to give way, the proposal was abandoned. Efforts were also made at Sofia through the mediation of the Roumanian Minister to discover a solution, but these, too, failed. Finally, at the end of December, a proposal was made by the Russian Government and is still being considered, that an armistice should be declared and that Turkey, without signing any treaty which would involve any cession of territory should simply withdraw her troops, Italy would then pay Turkey an indemnity and the Powers would recognise the annexation.

In Tripoli there was but little change in the situation. On the 20th November the Italian forces commenced a combined movement which resulted in the complete evacuation of the oasis by the Turks and Arabs, and on the 4th December the oasis of Ain Zara 12 miles to the south, which had been the Turkish advanced base, was occupied, and guns, rifles, and provisions were captured. Signs of most barbarous cruelties on Italian prisoners were discovered on part of the ground occupied. In a mosque at Hanz seventeen Bersaglieri were found crucified, and outside other bodies were found mutilated, nameless horrors having been practised on them.

From this time to the end of the year there is little to report. The Italians from Tripoli continued to advance slowly. Zanzur was occupied on the 17th December, but an advance to Bir Tobras on the 19th resulted in a withdrawal with considerable loss after some fighting. The Turkish press give graphic accounts of Turkish victories, which are denied in Italy the next day as absolutely devoid of foundation, this was especially noticeable in the case of an alleged great victory by the Turks at Derna. The effect, however, remains that the Turks believe that they are more than holding their

own, and as the war is costing them nothing and helps a great deal, they feel they have nothing to lose by continuing their resistance and would view with the utmost indignation any attempt which the Government might make to make peace on terms involving the cession of the provinces.

Bagdad Railway

In the past twelve months the question has entered on a new phase, in which the balance of advantage appears at first very decidedly with the Germans. The new situation has been created chiefly by three events, the Potsdam Agreement, which though its provisions were concluded on last year only took definitive shape by the convention of the 19th August last, the Bagdad Railway Company's Agreement with the Porte of last March, and the entire change in the relations between ourselves and the Turks. One other circumstance is worth noting, viz., the attempt of Germany to bring influence to bear on France in connexion with the railway by means of concessions quite foreign to Turkish affairs, but it is not yet apparent whether the attempt was attended with any success.

Of the three circumstances above mentioned, the first, viz., the Kaiser's German Agreement of the 19th August, is scarcely matter for a report from Constantinople, but it reserves to Germany the two reasons, namely that the consent of Russia has now a legal right, because of Germany's pledge to have cognisance of any fresh arrangements made since the agreement that may affect their interests, and, secondly, that Germany is prepared the grant for a large group of their Anatolian railways which, for an extended period, are four years after the former can be bought up by the Imperial Government. The two other questions are closely interwoven, and are dealt with in what I have to say to-day here.

Towards the end of 1910 a variety of causes made early negotiations between the Turks and the Bagdad railway company probable. On the Turkish side the pressing want of a better trade return and of a fresh source of revenue, at the most easy and convenient to the treaty powers, for this purpose was to increase the customs duties. The first step to this end was to remove the opposition of Great Britain as the Power chiefly concerned, in as much as the Turkish view of our assent was conditional on the proceeds of the increase being allocated to the purposes of this railway, the Porte had to offer the great facilities regarding the customs and a modification of the original Bagdad railway concession as well as satisfactory arrangements as regards the railway's eastern extension. Against the Turkish argument of the necessity, on monetary grounds, of hastening the construction of the railway as far as Bagdad, and lastly the Ottoman Government appreciated the desirability of coming to an understanding with us over all questions, and saw the advantage of a comprehensive discussion of these questions with the railway, and every proposal against them had to get some role to the German interests. The latter, on the other hand, were anxious lest the French scheme for extensive railway construction in Northern Syria might interfere with their own railway system, and also with the guarantees required for the Helif Bagdad extension, and were therefore making terms to secure on those points. To judge from the terms Russia were also a little apprehensive at first, just as they had feared Turkey's friendly conversations might lead into negotiations with the Turks with a consulting Germany, and they also saw that by immediate discussion they might get a better compensation in the shape of financial concessions for their assent to the Gulf section at the request of Turkey, but also to attach to that assent conditions that would still assure their position vis-à-vis any arrangement which might eventually be made with regard to the section. His after consideration was one which presented itself to my French colleague and myself as possessing considerable importance, but our recommendation that our Governments should be taken at the Porte to meet it was overruled.

On the first receipt, there was a request for negotiations at January discussions were expected on the question of the guarantees for the Helif Bagdad section. By the end of February so much progress had been made towards a comprehensive arrangement that Rifaat Pasha was able to inform me of the general lines of the settlement in regard to the Bagdad Gulf section, and on the 1st March gave me a confidential memorandum of the Turkish proposals for an arrangement which, briefly, were in substance that the Bagdad Gulf section, the rights of which the German company were prepared to abandon, should be constructed by an "international" Ottoman company, in which Turkey should participate to the extent of 40 per cent., the remaining 60 per cent.

being equally divided between British, German, and French groups. The German company being further willing to renounce their claim to the proceeds of the 4 per cent. increase of the customs duties, our objections to that increase, it was argued, were therefore removed. Lastly, it was suggested that an agreement respecting the status of Koweit as the probable future terminus of the railway was established as was also an understanding as to the respective positions of the two powers in the Persian Gulf. Proposals of this kind were scarcely encouraging, but His Majesty's Government nevertheless decided to make counter propositions, and I was meanwhile instructed to point out to the Porte that its conception of our conditions in regard to the 4 per cent was erroneous, a representation to which the Porte replied with a note partly altering the text of the Foreign Office memorandum to the Turkish Embassy in London under date of the 23rd September, 1909.

Meantime the Turks and the Bagdad Railway Company had concluded their negotiations by a convention which provided for (1) the construction within five years from the date of the approval of plans and surveys of the line from Helif to Bagdad, (2) the concession for a branch line but without kilometric guarantees, from Ostanieh to Alexandretta, and (3) the concession for a port at Alexandretta. No new revenues were to be affected to the Helif Bagdad sections but the guarantees for these sections were secured on the same revenues as those assigned to the Bghards, Helif "tronçon," an arrangement which according to local opinions made adequate provision should prove quite adequate. The convention was complemented by a letter from the company that it was ready to cede to a future Ottoman company its rights under the original concession of 1903 for the Bagdad Gulf section, and for a port to be selected at Bussorah or on the Gulf, all the remunerations made subject to two important conditions, (1) that while the company agreed that a large part of the Bagdad-Gulf section should be held by the Turkish Government, it claimed for itself a share not smaller than that to be held by any foreign interest, and (2) the company reserved to itself under the convention creating the contemplated "international" company the right to receive compensation for the sacrifice of the pecuniary advantages secured to it under the 1903 concession. The arrangement as a whole was undoubtedly extremely advantageous to the Germans. In return for giving up the Bagdad Gulf section, for which they are to receive an annuity, and for surrendering their claim on the 4 per cent which, at calculations show, they can dispose with, they have obtained their great desideratum, viz., a branch to Alexandretta and a port on the Mediterranean, and have, in addition, secured the right to be consulted at every stage in the negotiations in regard to the Gulf section. Nor have the Turks, from the point of view of their own immediate interests, made a bad bargain, rather the contrary, for the construction of the Helif Bagdad section is to be considerably accelerated with a Port at Alexandretta and its connecting branch line constructed to the benefit of trade. On the other hand they have trade lawful interests without adequate return, and have scarcely put themselves in a position with out making further sacrifices to the Germans to subsidies, and so obtain our assent to the increase of the customs duties.

Meantime the Turkish proposals of the 1st March were being carefully considered by the various departments of His Majesty's Government. By the Government of India they were pronounced to be quite unacceptable, and Lord Morley, for reasons which appeared to me to be untenable, went so far as to urge that negotiations should be politely broken off. His Government, however, decided to make counter proposals, in which of course the conditions of the recent agreement with the Germans had to be taken into account, and after considerable but unavoidable delay, at which the Porte showed some impatience, a memorandum of our proposals was handed to the Turkish Ambassador. They were divided under three headings, viz., the Bagdad Railway and terminal port, Persian Gulf questions, and last, the 4 per cent increase of the import duties. As regards the first we suggested that, if an international company was to be formed for the construction of the Bagdad Gulf section, British participation should be not less than that of any other Power, and in order to secure to us the controlling voice in the administration of the line we proposed that instead of the participation proposed by Turkey, viz., 40 per cent for that Power and 20 per cent each to Great Britain, Germany, and France, Russia should also be invited to participate, and that an equal share should be allotted to each Power. We further required to be guarded against differential rates and discriminating treatment in the fullest possible manner and even after the expiry of the Bagdad Railway concession. As to the terminal port we saw advantages in its being situated at Bussorah, and we required that in the event of that place being selected, the port must be placed under the control and administration of the new company, while if ever the railway should be prolonged to the Gulf, it should

be brought to Koweit under conditions to be agreed on by Great Britain and Turkey alone

In Persian Gulf questions, we desired that the Porte should renounce all claims whatever on the Arabian littoral south of Ojeir in Muscat, and over the Trucial chiefs, and should recognise the autonomy of the Sheikh of Koweit, his title to the islands of Bubian and Warba and his right to hold property in Turkish territory, and in return we were prepared to recognise the Sultan's suzerainty over Koweit Turkey must further acknowledge the right of Great Britain to control and conduct the buoying, lighting, police, and sanitary arrangements in the Gulf, and agree to the creation of a joint Anglo-Turkish commission to deal with the buoying, &c. of the Shatt el Arab

As regards the 4 per cent customs surtax we could only give our consent provided that a satisfactory arrangement of the two former questions were reached, together with some guarantee against the continuation of arbitrary acts against British interests such as the recent demonstrations at Bagdad, and also provided the veto of the Porte on the borrowing powers of Egypt were removed With a suitable settlement on these points we would agree to the surtax for a fixed period and to the continuation of the existing 8 per cent surtax

The outbreak of the Massoor revolt and the ensuing complications, and later on the war with Italy and the change of Ministry, prevented the Porte from making a formal reply to our counter-proposals, but I find that there is a strong feeling against the introduction of Russia into the railway question, and it seems probable that to meet our *sine qua non* for control in the administration of the Gulf section, the Turks will propose that participation in the new company shall be confined to Turkey, Great Britain, Germany, and France, but that the Turkish share shall be reduced to something less than 25 per cent., so that, with the remaining capital equally divided among the other three Powers the combined British and French interest would be superior to that of the other two participants As regards Bahrein, El Katr, &c., there would not seem to be any insuperable difficulty in bringing the Porte to admit our exclusive position, but on Koweit they assume they are more sensitive They believe that Midhat Pasha did succeed in creating some kind of demonstration over the sheikh, and they will probably prove loath to abandon, so completely as we desire, the signs of such sketchy Ottoman authority as may have existed for a short period They also understand that it is through Koweit that the half-subdued tribes of Arabia obtain their arms, and it is naturally galling to the national pride to see this traffic carried on through a vassal chief's territory under the protection or at least the countenance of a foreign Power However, even on this question a more accommodating spirit seems to have prevailed since Said Pasha's advent to power and as the Porte seems to have a preference for Koweit as the terminus of the railway, it is not impossible that an agreement on lines not necessarily divergent from those presented in the memorandum of the 29th July, might be reached But throughout Ministers, and in particular Mahmoud Shefket Pasha, were constantly pressing their desire to come to serious discussions, they got no further and ask for the text of our agreements with the Trucial chiefs and the Sheikhs of Bahrein and Koweit They appear to be satisfied with regards the former, but some of our arrangements with Sheikh Mubarek, such as our lease of part of the forest of Koweit harbour were withheld

Since their agreement of last March the Germans have been pushing on the work of construction with great activity, and at the instance of Meissner Pasha, the German engineer of the Hedjaz Railway who is now in the service of the Bagdad company, they made an application to the Porte for the diversion of the main line between Mosul and Bagdad from the original *tracé* to a new alignment which would pass through the Sulymaniah district and Khanakin, thus bringing the trunk line direct to the Persian frontier The object would appear to be two-fold Firstly, to get a footing on the petroliferous regions which were the aim of the Chesney and Darcy schemes, and, secondly, to obtain command of the through traffic from the Gulf to Persia over the control international Gulf Bagdad line, with all the opportunities of discriminating treatment of traffic, a species of manipulation for which, if the author of "Les Chemins de Fer Ottomans: Chemins de fer d'Anatolie et de Bagdad" is to be believed, the German engineers of those lines have shown a special aptitude As an arrangement of this kind would have altered the basis on which the Turks has proposed negotiations to us, and would also have been detrimental to our interests, I recommended that we should inform the Porte that we considered ourselves entitled to be consulted as to any arrangement that might affect the interests of the future Gulf Bagdad railway The Porte replied to the verbal representations which I was authorised to make that no negotiations were in progress with the company, but I was also informed privately

that, as a matter of fact, the Germans had sent in a takrir urging the change of alignment, but that the Council of Ministers had decided to entertain it The Russian Ambassador has also represented to his Government the objections which he sees to the proposed change, but has not received any instructions to address the Porte on the question The Russians would appear to have reasonable grounds for taking steps at Berlin rather than at Constantinople, since, in the agreement of the 19th August, the Sadijeh Khanikin branch is clearly mentioned as the link between the German railway and the future Persian system

As soon as the final *tracé* is settled, which does not seem to be yet the case, the work will be begun at the Bagdad end and pushed on vigorously. A site for the station has already been acquired, and on a contiguous plot of ground the custom-house is about to erect new buildings, the contract for which has been given to the Germans The company is also making arrangements for the conveyance of its material to Bagdad by its own river steamers and has purchased land for a wharf at Bussorah

It is perhaps worth mentioning that a project for obtaining a concession for a railway from Bagdad to Khanikin has been submitted to His Majesty's Government by Mr Charles Stanforth, with a request for official support, but, having a favourable reply, no practical progress appears to have been made with the scheme

Crete.

The year has, of course, not passed without the Cretan question constantly occupying the attention of the protecting Powers in one form or another but with the exception of the question of the appointment of cadis for the Mussulman population of the island and the regime to be established on the expiration of M Zaimis's appointment as High Commissioner, the Embassy has had to take no direct action, and my reports on Cretan affairs will therefore be practically limited to these two matters

The question of the cadis was raised by ministerial statements in the Ottoman Chamber that cadis had been voted for the salaries of three of these functionaries and that the protecting Powers had acquiesced in the arrangement The surprise of the protecting Powers at the latter statement was scarcely less than the excitement caused in Crete and at Athens by the former, but it was eventually discovered that some time previously the Turkish representative had raised the matter in conversation, although from that, as the question had appeared to be of no importance, no despatch had been returned Meanwhile the elements at the Turkish disposal at Canea were about to start for their posts produced dangers threatening from the Christian Cretans that their landing on the island would be prevented by force, and the result of the recommendation of the four Embassies agreed to delay their departure On the main question the four Powers were at first disposed to inform the Porte that, in the absence of a High Commissioner who would be the natural authority to make the proper inquiries, they would be ready to consider the appointment of the cadis by themselves from a list of suitable candidates drawn up by the Sheikh-ul-Islam At this point however the Greek government suggested that an examination was necessary to ensure any degree of, pointing out that the Mussulman communities of Crete had managed to get on very well without them for some years, their functions being performed by the muftis. Enquiries made by the four Consuls in Crete showed that this was true, but the ease and the joint decision arrived at to be made by myself and my colleagues of the Porte (13 June) was therefore as follows, to state that it would be seen that such appointments were a matter of urgent necessity the four Powers would take into consideration the question of making the nominations themselves from the Sheikh-ul-Islam's list The solution was already received with more approbation in Crete and Greece than at Constantinople, but the Porte contented itself with a mild expression of disappointment that the Powers should have had in view the object of providing cadis for the cadis

In August, a month before the expiration of M Zaimis's appointment as High Commissioner, an exchange of views began between the protecting Powers, the upshot of which was a decision to maintain the actual *status quo*, that is to say, the high commissionership vacant and to continue to entrust the administration of Crete to an executive Committee In a sense this arrangement deprived the King of Greece of the privilege accorded to him in 1906 of nominating the High Commissioner, and it was therefore arranged in order to avoid the appearance of affronting a sleight on His Majesty which might have had a practical effect on the political situation at Athens, that the decision of the four Powers should be communicated to His Majesty before the similar notifications were made in Athens, Crete and Constantinople King George being

at the time at Copenhagen the necessary intimation was made to him by the representatives of the protecting Powers in that capital on the 11th September, the Greek Government was informed on the following day and the Porte and the Executive Committee of Crete on the 14th

From time to time and particularly when the crop of unpunished murders of Mussulmans has happened to be heavy or late in the year, the Turkish press has blown the patriot trumpet over Cretan affairs, and during the settlement of the cadi question a few public meetings—one of them at so unlikely a place as Bussorah—were organised by the chauvinist elements, still, on the whole, a singularly sober temper seems to have prevailed, and when at the close of the year the Cretan revolutionary assembly was endeavouring to send deputies to the Greek Chamber the sincerity of M Venizelos's determination not to allow them to gain entrance to the Vouli was recognised and appreciated

On the outbreak of the war, the protecting Powers informed the Porte that Crete was to be considered as neutral, and, as a consequence of this decision they have not permitted the Cretan refugees on the islands to be exterminated, as has been the case in other parts of the Empire. The Italian Government has also withdrawn its statement that Cretan waters and soil are the seat of war between Turkey and Italy. So long as the state of war between Turkey and Italy continues, Italy will not act as one of the protecting Powers, although as a matter of courtesy, she will be kept informed by any action taken by the other three Governments in Cretan questions.

Turco-Persian Frontier

In January and February reports were received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mosul, leading to show that the Turks were sending reinforcements to the frontier district, the garrisons of Suleymaneh, Rowanduz, Ispahan and Serdesht, being increased and, at the end of February, fresh detachments of Turkish troops being sent into the Solduz district and the region of the Urumia-Khoi road

In view however of the persistent denials given at the Porte and of the contradictory nature of the reports received from the frontier district, the Russian Government proposed recourse to the plan discussed in the previous year (see last annual report), for sending Russian and British consular officers to ascertain and report on what was being done. It was agreed to propose a procedure similar to that outlined in the identic communication to the Sublime Porte of the 16th May, 1910, to which reference was made and asking the Turkish Government to appoint a Turkish officer in addition to accompany the British and Russian delegates. It was stated that arrangements had been made for the delegates to start as soon as weather conditions would allow of it

Rifaat Pasha declared his inability to see what useful purpose could be served by such a tour, and hinted that the garrisons in the Solduz and Urmia districts had been recently reinforced

A second communication was made simultaneously at Tehran, but the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that he would defer replying until he had heard what answer was returned by the Porte; the latter had, he said, proposed a Turco-Persian delimitation commission, and the Persian Government had expressed their readiness to take part, provided that Turkey first withdrew her troops. It appears that this commission was intended to settle the whole question, and merely to arrange differences in the interpretation of treaties. The Persian Government had not replied to the Turkish proposals for a joint commission, as they were awaiting the arrival of the new Persian Ambassador to Constantinople. The Russian Government further had information to the effect that the Turkish Government had proposed that, should the commission disagree, the dispute should be submitted to The Hague Tribunal

The Turkish Government, having made no reply to the identic communication of the 28th March, it was agreed that it would be best, instead of pressing for a reply, simply to communicate the proposed date of departure of the delegates

Meanwhile, evidently, by the desire to avoid the mediation of the two Powers, the Turkish Government, towards the end of April, submitted to the Persian Government a

draft protocol containing proposals for a Turco-Persian commission to sit at Constantinople for the purpose of defining the frontier. A second joint commission was afterwards to do the work of actual delimitation on the spot. The basis for discussion was to be the Treaty of Erzeroum of 1847, with the diplomatic correspondence exchanged at the time of its conclusion, and the clauses of the earlier treaties not abrogated by article 9 of the above-mentioned treaty. Points of dispute as to the interpretation of the clauses of these treaties were to be submitted to The Hague Tribunal

The Persian Government insisted on the withdrawal of Turkish troops as a condition preliminary to the discussion of these points, and at the same time proposed amendments by which the basis of discussion was to be the Treaty of Erzeroum and the correspondence exchanged between the two governments, "the tenour of which is in conformity with the same treaty", and by which either mention of the earlier treaties should be omitted or reference made to articles 2 and 3 as well as to article 9

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs sent these proposals to Constantinople with a promise to sign the protocol if his terms were accepted and the Turkish troops withdrawn, at the same time undertaking to make a fresh proposal if the present one were not accepted

It seemed in any case that the Persian Government were quite prepared to submit the whole question to arbitration, and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs mentioned of making a fresh proposal would thus afford time and opportunity for the two Powers to devise the best means of bringing this about

The view taken by the Russian Government of the Turkish proposals and the Persian amendments was that the basis of discussion was too restricted, and that it should be enlarged so as to comprise treaties subsequent to the Treaty of Erzeroum, further diplomatic correspondence, and maps, and other documents of interest, and they further suggested that the Persian Government should be asked to address a supplementary note to the Sublime Porte proposing alterations in that sense. The Russian Government agreed that points on which the Turco-Persian commission were unable to come to an agreement should be referred to arbitration, on the understanding that such points must first be submitted to the Russian and British Governments for their approval. They also recommended that the communication to be made to the Turkish Government as to the object and itinerary of the tour might be delayed until such supplementary note had been sent by the Persian Government

His Majesty's Government at first concurred in these views, but subsequently modified their opinion in view of the fact that if the Persian Government were to send supplementary proposals at that juncture, it would be evident to Turkey that it was done at the instigation of the two Powers, and this might prejudice negotiations. It was accordingly agreed that it would be better to let things take their course until the Sublime Porte rejected the Persian terms, when Persia might make fresh proposals with a better show of spontaneity

As regards the proposed tour of British and Russian delegates, the two Governments decided to draw up two sets of instructions to their delegates, one set laid down in detail the objects of the tour and the procedure to be adopted, the other was more general, and indicated only in rough outline the object of the commission. Thus it was agreed to communicate to the Turkish and Persian Governments together with the proposed itinerary and a request to the Sublime Porte to arrange for the free passage of the delegates over Turkish territory, if this were necessary. It was, however, considered advisable, if possible, to withhold details of the itinerary from the Turkish Government, who might if acquainted with it beforehand take steps so to alter the disposition of their troops as to change the whole aspect of the situation on the frontier

The itinerary was, however, to be communicated confidentially at Tehran, as it was thought that there was little danger of the Persian Government making it known to the Porte

The identic communication to the Turkish Government was made on the 16th May. It gave the names of the delegates (Mr Shipley and M Mirorski) and the composition of their escorts (six sowars to accompany the British and twenty-five Cossacks the Russian delegate), and it stated that they were charged with ascertaining the exact state of affairs in the region to be visited. It explained that they were to visit the district of Urumia and various localities in that district as well as other parts of the frontier of the province of Azerbaijan, and that they were then to return to Tabreez. The delegates were to start about the middle of May o.s. The communication ended with a request that orders might be sent to facilitate the passage of the delegates, even, if necessary, over Turkish territory

Rifaat Pasha stated in reply that orders in the sense desired would immediately be

sent, but added that when the delegates entered Turkish territory a Turkish guard must be substituted. Rifaat Pasha at the same time remarked that he hoped that the negotiations then pending between Persia and Turkey might result in a satisfactory solution, and, in view of the fact that these negotiations might be prejudiced by the tour of the two delegates, asked whether it would not be possible to abandon it. The Russian Government, however, considered that it was too late to abandon the project, and, accordingly, on the 24th May an identic communication was made to the Sublime Porte stating that the delegates would proceed on their mission and that the two Governments had no objection to the replacing of their escorts by a Turkish escort in the event of their passing into Turkish territory. An intimation was, however, added to the effect that the composition of the escort should not be judged to affect in any way the question of the proprietorship of the places visited.

Rifaat Pasha displayed some opposition to the idea of a Persian delegate joining the mission. As the Porte had not appointed a delegate, it was therefore thought best to advise the Persian Government not to appoint one either. To this the Persian Government made no demur.

The Russian and British delegates accordingly started alone on the 8th June.

On reaching Khoi, the delegates were informed by the Turkish consul that they could not take their escorts further along the road to Urmia than Dilman. An identic note was accordingly drawn up for communication to the Porte stating that the two Governments had no objection to the Turkish Government sending a Turkish escort in addition to the delegates' escort for this portion of the tour. Before, however, this note could be presented, news was received of the arrival of the delegates at Urmia, they having proceeded without their escorts, which followed the shores of the lake to rejoin them at Urmia. To prevent the recurrence of such incidents an identic note was sent in to the Porte protesting against the refusal to allow the delegates to be accompanied by their escorts, but stating that no objection would be made to a Turkish escort being added in regions under Turkish military occupation.

To this the Porte agreed, and the delegates left Urmia on the 8th July.

The protocol, laying down the basis of discussion for the joint Turco-Persian commission, was signed at Tehran about the middle of December.

With regard to actual Turkish encroachments over the frontier and disputes about the frontier district, it was reported at the beginning of August that, in consequence of repeated representations made by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, the Turkish Government had withdrawn its troops from Boulak Bashi as well as from all other points north of it with the exception of Saraj, in Persian territory. It was understood, however, that this withdrawal should be without prejudice to the discussions and conclusions of the contemplated Turco-Persian commission.

In November, difficulties arose over the convoying by Russian troops of caravans going from Khoi to Urmia. This caravan route traversed territory occupied by Turkish troops, under the *status quo* arrangement, pending the settlement of the question by a joint commission by the Hague Conference. The Sublime Porte issued orders to stop the passage of Russian troops along this frontier. His Majesty's Government were approached by the Turkish Government to use their influence in persuading Russia to abandon the convoying of caravans. But this His Majesty's Government declined to do. In consequence of the protests of the Sublime Porte, the Russian Government reinforced their troops at Khoi, while on the other hand the Turkish Government prepared to strengthen their posts in the Salmas district, and issued orders to prevent Russian troops entering territory in Turkish occupation. A situation of considerable gravity was thus created. The Russian Government made it quite clear to the Turks that they considered that the work of convoying devolved upon them as part of the duties they had taken upon themselves in Northern Persia, and that they were not prepared to relinquish it. The Turkish Government suggested that the caravans convoyed by Russian escorts should follow a route along the shore of the lake, but this proposal did not meet with approval at St. Petersburgh.

Pourparlers continued at Constantinople between the Russian Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and these negotiations, being conducted in a more conciliatory spirit, gave promise of a satisfactory conclusion. It was understood on both sides that the convoying should not in any way prejudice the general question when it came to be discussed by the commission.

In December, Turkish kaimakams were appointed at Ushnu and Solduz, both east of the contested zone. The Russian Government had protested against such appointments in 1910.

Annual Report upon Sanitary Affairs in the Turkish Empire in the year 1911

The matters dealt with in the present report are grouped under the following headings:—

The Cholera Epidemic
Plague Outbreaks
The Moslem Pilgrimage
The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway
Special Missions of the Board of Health
Sanitation in the Hedjaz and the Ten Piastres Tax
Changes in the Board of Health
The Finance of the Year
The Turco-Italian War
The War Ministry and the Board.
Turkey and the International Sanitary Conventions.
The Work of the Mixed Commission

The Cholera Epidemic.

The outbreak of cholera in Constantinople, which prevailed in the latter part of 1910, disappeared in January 1911. The totals recorded in that epidemic were 1,818 cases and 793 deaths in the civilian population; but there were also many cases among the troops stationed in the capital. On or about the 21st May the disease again appeared, this epidemic was of longer duration, but of much the same degree of severity as that of the preceding year. It reached its height in September, and then steadily declined, occasional cases were, however, still occurring among the troops till the end of the year.

In the Turkish provinces cholera was again widely spread. It was at one time present, in epidemic form, through a large part of European and Asiatic Turkey. The published returns were, as usual, incomplete, but they showed very considerable totals of cases and deaths. The disease was still present, to some extent, at the close of the year, in Syria, in Mecca and Jeddah, in the Adana vilayet, at Ineboli on the Black Sea, at Janina in Albania, and in Tripoli (Barbary). A revival of the epidemic in 1912 is almost inevitable.

In Russia, on the other hand, cholera was far less active than in most recent years. A small epidemic occurred between the middle of June and the beginning of November, involving mainly the Governments situated on the Volga and in the Caucasus. Only 3,313 cases were registered—in marked contrast with the 216,000 cases recorded in the preceding year.

The disease was again epidemic in Italy, and was present to some extent in Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, France, Spain, Turin, and Persia. In some of these countries, however, it was confined to the occurrence of a few isolated cases.

Plague Outbreaks.

The seasonal revival of plague in Jeddah began on the 14th January, after a single isolated case on the 16th December, 1910). Between that date and the 18th April thirty-seven cases and thirty two deaths were recorded—a far lower total than in any of the preceding four years.

A few sporadic cases of the disease occurred at Adalia, Mersina, Smyrna, in the Lebanon, and at Bussorah in the course of the year. Far more serious outbreaks were seen at Bushire, Bahrein, and Muscat in April, May, and June. In Bushire and Muscat the figures were never very high (from eighteen to twenty-four cases per week at its worst), but in the Bahrein Islands the mortality was at one time reckoned at several hundreds per week, and the total mortality must have been very great. The rumoured presence of the disease at the same time on the Trucial coast of Arabia does not seem to have been confirmed.

Plague cases occurred at Odessa in the summer months, and several outbreaks of the disease were reported from various places in the Kirghiz steppes. Plague was, as in previous years, present to a greater or less extent in Egypt during the year.

The Moslem Pilgrimage

The returning pilgrimage of 1910–11 fell mainly in the early months of the year under review. It was declared "brut," owing to the presence of cholera among the pilgrims and to the outbreak of plague in Jeddah above referred to. The cholera epidemic which appeared among the pilgrims at the end of 1910 was not one of great severity, and does not appear to have been spread by them to any great extent on their return to or through Turkish territory. It is noteworthy that, although infected pilgrims returned by the Hedjaz Railway, and three cases of the disease with two deaths occurred in the lazaret of Tebuk, no case was reported among them to the north of that lazaret.

The descending "hadj" of 1911 fell in the summer and autumn months. It was infected by cholera, which, as already stated, prevailed through a large part of Turkey and in many adjoining countries.

The pilgrimage regulations or "dispositions spéciales") for the 1911–12 "hadj" differed but slightly from those of the preceding year.

The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway

The Tebuk lazaret entered this year on its fourth season of activity. In the returning "hadj" of 1910–11 20,435 pilgrims were received in the lazaret, where they underwent five days' quarantine. In the preceding year the corresponding figure was 15,233. The largest number of pilgrims in one convoy at any one time was 3,550. As already stated, three cases of cholera and two deaths occurred among them, but no case of the disease was seen to the north of Tebuk until much later when the infection appeared in Syria from other sources). This result would seem to justify the conclusion that the measures applied at Tebuk were sufficiently efficacious.

In the descending "hadj" of 1911–12 16,204 pilgrims are said to have passed through the Tebuk lazaret on their way to Medina. This figure was more than double that of the preceding year, when 7,946 pilgrims chose this route to the Hedjaz.

The receipts at the Tebuk lazaret for the financial year 1910–11 amounted to 1,287,178·10 piastres, and the expenditure only to 580,060·46 piastres. The latter figure included not only outlay strictly chargeable to "quarantine" account, but also outlay for constructions, &c., which should be charged to the Mixed Commission. The "compte spécial du Chemin de fer du Hedjaz" is still a provisional account, which will not become definite until it has been revised by the Mixed Commission. It shows at present (i.e., at the end of the financial year 1910–11) a deficit of 216,458·06 piastres, but this is solely because the cost of constructions, &c., just alluded to, has been charged to this account instead of to the Mala. Otherwise it would show a large surplus.

It is intended to enlarge the Tebuk lazaret considerably in the near future, to enable it to receive more pilgrims at a time, and so prevent the accumulation of pilgrims at Medina, of which complaints have more than once been received. The Tebuk lazaret is included with the others, for the repair and completion of which a sum of £T 280,000 has been earmarked by the Mixed Commission (see below).

The question of the sanitary defence of the Hedjaz Railway was to some extent discussed in the recent International Sanitary Conference in Paris, but the conference confined itself to taking note of the fact that the Turkish Government has now charged the Board of Health, provisionally and under certain conditions, with the sanitary control of the line, and no amendment will be made in the new convention of the detailed measures to be applied at Tebuk or elsewhere on the railway. The choice of Tebuk as the site of the lazaret was generally approved, and is further fully endorsed by the opinion of the vice-president of the Board and the French delegate who, as stated in the following section, recently visited the lazaret.

Special Missions of the Board of Health.

In the early summer the Board, on the proposal of the Russian authorities, despatched three of its members (two Turkish members and the Russian delegate) to inspect the Russian lazarets of the Black Sea. A little later another mission (composed of the French and Persian delegates and a Turkish member) visited the northern part of the Turco-Persian frontier, and reported on the measures of reorganisation of the sanitary defences required there. Another mission to the southern part of the same frontier and to Bussorah is contemplated in the near future.

The second mission of inspection which the Board decided nearly two years ago to send down the Hedjaz Railway (as explained in my last annual report) never went, nor is there any definite sign of its going. In December 1911, however, the vice-president of the Board (Dr Djenab Bey) and the French delegate (Dr Delamare) were sent on a mission to Tebuk, to deal with certain complaints made by the railway authorities, and to report on the state of the lazaret. Their report is shortly expected. Although the Board, when deciding on this mission, decided also that it was not to affect the question of the despatch of the other mission, it may be seriously hoped that it will prove to have removed all necessity for this latter. There is a marked tendency on the part of the Board to multiply unnecessarily these very costly missions, and on the part of the delegates (who have often no direct interests involved) to take part in them; and it must seriously be questioned whether the usually excessive) grant made to the members to cover the *frais de route* is not in some instances the main cause of this tendency, rather than a disinterested desire for the improvement of Turkey's sanitary defences.

Sanitation in the Hedjaz and the 10-piastres Tax

As stated in my last annual report, the Powers had agreed to the levying of this tax, for a period of five years, and under certain conditions. Some further correspondence with the Porte followed, and it was not until August last that the tax began to be collected. The accounts of the Conseil sanitaire du Hedjaz, which administers the proceeds of this tax, are not yet made up definitely, but I learn that the tax has produced, in a single (incomplete) season, a sum of about £T 8,000 or £T 9,000. The Turkish Government also voted a sum of £T 12,000 for sanitation in the Hedjaz. Much has consequently been done during the past season to improve the sanitary state of the Hedjaz towns. The hospital for ordinary diseases, put up last year, has, it is said, done good work throughout the season. Infectious diseases hospitals, composed of tents and each capable of holding forty patients, have been sent to Jeddah, Mecca, Medina, and Yanbo. The council has also acquired the buildings of a large military hospital at Jeddah, with room for 250 patients, but this is as yet unfurnished. The four tent hospitals cost about £T 2,000. Five disinfecting stoves have been bought, at a cost of about £T 1,500, and sent, one to Mecca, two to Medina and two to Jeddah. Two ambulance wagons (for Mecca and Jeddah), 20 dust-carts (20 horse carts and 10 hand-carts), 700 rat-traps, 12 stretchers for removing sick, and large supplies of drugs and disinfectants have also been sent to the four towns. The following permanent staff has, I am further informed, been appointed to those towns. At Mecca: one medical director, one assistant director, one "pharmacien", one secretary, one head-guard and two guards. At Medina and at Jeddah: one medical director, one "pharmacien," one secretary, one head-guard and two guards. At Yanbo: the same (but no head-guard). In addition the following temporary staff was sent for the pilgrim season:—To Mecca: four doctors, two "pharmaciens" and twelve guards. To Jeddah: two doctors, one "pharmacien" and three guards. To Medina: two doctors, one "pharmacien" and three guards. No extra staff was sent to Yanbo.

In August, the Board of Health agreed to advance to the Conseil sanitaire du Hedjaz a sum of £T 5,000, to be repaid in three annual instalments, for the purchase of a large distilling apparatus for Jeddah. This sum has not yet been touched, owing to a slight technical difficulty with the "Cour des Comptes", but it is expected that this difficulty will soon be overcome and then the order will at once be given for the distiller.

Changes in the Board of Health.

The only new appointment made during the year was that of Dr. Delamare as French delegate.

Owing to the outbreak of the Turco-Italian war, the Italian delegate, Dr Zeri, and the Spanish delegate, Dr Gabuzzi (an Italian subject) have ceased to sit on the board since the end of September. Italian interests have been in the charge of the German delegate.

The Board's Finance.

The balance sheet for 1910–11 was published in September. The Sanitary Service showed again a large increase in receipts (from 9,169,750 piastres to 10,626,212 piastres)

and as the expenditure (7,661,660 piastres) was almost the same as in the preceding year.

	Piastres.
The net surplus rose from 1,625,768 piastres to	2,964,552 00
Add interest on investments	1,550,000 88
"Agio"	296,513 06
	4,811,065 94
Deduct balance of "profit and loss" account	13,521 09½
Total sanitary margin	4,797,544 84½
The quarantine account gave a surplus of (As against a deficit of 765,835 piastres in the preceding year)	762,707 25
The total margin was therefore	5,560,252 09½

(Or over £T 50,000.)

This immense surplus was realised in spite of the full application (under another form) of the new "cadres du personnel" and of much of the other increased expenditure foreseen in the calculations of the mixed commission.

The Turco-Italian War.

The war between Italy and Turkey, which broke out at the end of September, led to the forcible expulsion of the Turkish officials from the lazarets of Tripoli and Benghazi, and from the sanitary offices on those coasts.

In November the Turkish Government ordered first the suspension and later the immediate dismissal of all Italian officials and employés in the services of the railways, telegraphs, public debt and sanitary administrations. Of these four administrations the last has been apparently the only one to carry out the order. The Italian sanitary employés were declared, by the vice-president, to have been dismissed "by decision of the Board of Health," though no such decision appears to have been formally taken. A later order was issued, declaring that even if the Italian employés became Turkish subjects, they were none the less to be dismissed.

The Ministry of War and Board of Health.

The Ministry of War has more than once in the past year urged the Sanitary Administration to spend its reserve (erroneously placed at "£T 700,000") in enlarging its existing lazarets at Smyrna, Beirout and Sinope, so as to enable each of them to "receive 10,000 troops at a time," and in creating others for 5,000 troops on the Anatolian and Roumelian railways, on the Bosphorus, at Salonica, Samsoun and Trebizond.

This question of the quarantining of troops is a serious one. In the last two years the cholera epidemic has been mainly spread in Turkey by the movements of troops, either in connection with manœuvres, or with the wars in the Yemen, in Albania, and in Tripoli. Hitherto troops have been received gratuitously in the board's lazarets, thus seriously interfering with the ordinary work of these establishments and adding greatly to their expenditure, without in any way increasing their income. The injustice of such an arrangement is obvious, and there can be no reason why shipping and passengers should bear the cost of sanitary measures applied to troops. Troops are not exempted from the quarantine dues by the existing tariff, as laid down by the mixed commissions, but by a decision of the board (or of the administration) taken in 1871. But that decision required none the less that the Ministry of War should pay the cost of the extra sanitary guards and all other increased expenditure resulting from the board's lazarets receiving troops. On several occasions since that date the Ministry has recognised this principle, and has paid considerable sums to the board, on the basis indicated. But for the last few years they have refused to pay anything, though the movement of troops has enormously increased. The matter has recently been discussed in the lazarets' committee and in the board itself, and a reply has now (early in January) been sent to the Ministry of War, explaining the facts, pointing out that the board is about to complete its lazarets for pilgrims and passengers, but adding that if the Ministry of War desires to have further accommodation for troops undergoing quarantine, "il est prêt d'aviser au nécessaire."

Turkey and the International Sanitary Conventions.

Early in the year, Turkey adhered to the International Health Bureau in Paris, and the vice-president of the board (Dr. Djenal Bey) represented Turkey at the meetings of that bureau, held in Paris in March, to prepare the programme of the international conference, which was ultimately held in November and December.

Turkey, it will be recalled, had previously declared her intention of adhering also to the international convention of 1903, under the reserves mentioned in my last annual report.

A fresh international sanitary conference was convoked for the month of May, but was ultimately adjourned until the autumn. It opened on the 7th November, and the practical work of the conference came to an end on the 18th December, a sub-committee was then named, to draw up the text of the new convention, based on the decisions of the conference, and a final meeting, for the signature of the convention, was to be held in the present month (January 1912).

The Turkish delegates to the conference were Missak Effendi, a former member of the Ottoman diplomatic service, Dr. Cassim Izzeddine, inspector-general of the Sanitary Administration, and Dr. Akil Muktar Bey, member of the Board of Health.

It would be out of place here to give even a summary of the work done by this conference, but the following brief outline of the decisions relating more especially to this and adjoining countries may be useful.

The title of titre 1 of the 1903 convention is changed from "Dispositions spéciales aux Pays situés hors d'Europe" to "Dispositions spéciales aux Pays d'Orient et d'Extrême-Orient."

The clauses prescribing in detail the organisation of the lazaret of Moses's Wells (last paragraph of article 62 and articles 63–65) are suppressed. The similar clauses relating to the lazarets of Camaran and Abu-Saad (articles 129–134) and to the lazarets of Kizil-Dizé and Khamkin (article 85), are also suppressed. These decisions were fully justified by the fact that a great part of the prescriptions contained in those articles have been already executed, and others have been shown to be impossible of execution or unsuited to local conditions.

Section 6 ("Régime sanitaire applicable au Golfe Persique") is modified as follows. Article 79 is suppressed, and replaced by the following single clause:—

> "La réglementation sanitaire telle qu'elle est instituée par les articles de la présente convention sera appliquée, en ce qui concerne les navires pénétrant dans le Golfe Persique, par les autorités sanitaires des ports d'arrivée.
>
> "Cette réglementation est soumise, sous le rapport de la classification des navires ainsi que du régime à leur faire subir dans le Golfe Persique aux trois réserves suivantes:" (suite d'après l'article 80 actuel).

Section 7, entitled "Etablissements sanitaires du Golfe Persique," is suppressed.

The above suppressions and modifications may be regarded with satisfaction, as the thorny question of a sentinel station at Hormuz, or elsewhere, at the entrance to the Gulf, has now disappeared.

Some slight modifications have been made in the clauses relating to the Moslem pilgrimage.

Articles 165–175, that is, section 2 of titre 4, relating to the composition and attributions of the Constantinople Board of Health, disappear. The Turkish diplomatic delegate made a formal declaration that that board will continue, as in the past, to be the authority charged with applying the measures for preventing the introduction of epidemic disease into Turkey, and its transmission thence to other countries.

I am not at this moment aware what exact reserves Turkey will make at the signature of the convention, but some of them were indicated by the Turkish delegates in the course of the conference. Thus, she will certainly reserve the right to apply special measures, not of necessity those prescribed in the convention, against pilgrims; she will demand that measures applied to ordinary ships from infected ports be based on the Egyptian regulations (*i.e.* five days' observation, including the days of the voyage), and she will make a further reserve respecting article 137 (the quarantining at Tor of pilgrims destined for Turkish ports situated north of Suez).

The Work of the Mixed Commission.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in the work of this body. Early in the year I was authorised by His Majesty's Government to make to it a

series of proposals for the use of a portion of the Board's reserve fund in reorganising the lazarets, for the reduction of sanitary dues, and for the application of the new "cadres du personnel." These proposals were discussed at length at seven successive meetings, held between the 5th April and the 20th May. With some slight modifications, and with the addition of some other minor proposals, they were carried unanimously, or with some relatively unimportant reserves. An interim report embodying the proposals in the form of definite decisions was drawn up and signed, *ad referendum*, on the 20th May. After a long delay, the Sublime Porte on the 7th September sent an identical note to the missions, practically accepting all the proposals of the interim report, with some reserves and observations.

An identical report on the subject from the delegates on the commission, containing answers to those observations, was addressed to the heads of missions on the 18th September. This was converted by the meeting of dragomans into a draft reply note to the Porte, in which the missions also accept the proposals of the interim report, while making clear certain points raised by the Porte's observations. This draft reply note was submitted to the respective home Governments, so far only His Majesty's Government have replied, and they authorised the sending in of the note. The note was accordingly sent in on the 20th January, 1912.

The principal resolutions thus unanimously adopted are the following —

1. The existence of a sanitary reserve invested in public funds and amounting to £T. 435,000, constituted as a sanitary, to which it is time to put an end.

2. This reserve should be employed in such a manner as to satisfy, as far as possible, all the various interests at stake.

3. The reserve of £T. 435,000 is to be spent and it is reduced to £T. 70,000.

4. Without touching in any way the stipulations laid down by former mixed commissions which still remain in force, and solely to meet an exceptional state of affairs by exceptional measures, the commission decides to place at the disposal of the Board of Health the sum of £T. 280,000 for the repair of existing lazarets and the creation of new ones. The cost of the lazaret at Tebuk is to be included in this sum.

5. The sanitary dues are to be reduced by 20 per cent. If any deficits should result (a most unlikely contingency) from this reduction, from the increased outlay of the loan, from the cost of income for investments involved in spending a capital of £T. 280,000, or from other causes, it will be supported by the £T. 85,000 left after deducting from the total of £T. 435,000 the above sums of £T. 70,000 and £T. 280,000.

When the above margin of £T. 85,000 shall be reduced to £T. 20,000, and if the annual returns should still continue to show deficits, the mixed commission shall be again summoned and charged to revise the tariff once more. The £T. 20,000 would cover any deficits that might occur in the interval between the summoning of that commission and the acceptance of its decisions. If that interval exceed a year, the existing tariff will automatically come into force again at the expiry of the year, and remain in force until the new commission's proposals shall have been accepted and come into force.

6. The Turkish Government (Ministry of Finances) will continue to pay for the cost of hire of sanitary offices, &c., and will contribute a fixed sum of £T. 4,000 a year for the upkeep of sanitary and quarantine buildings.

7. At the same time as the above decisions come into force, the new "cadres du personnel" (already applied under another form) will be definitely applied.

8. Inhabitants of a fixed zone, 30 kilom. wide, on either side of the Turco-Persian frontier, will be exempted (under certain specified conditions) from the 10 piastre tax in force on that frontier.

9. The tax of 10 piastres hitherto levied on all persons going to the Hedjaz by sea, will now be collected also from those entering it by land (*i.e.*, by the Hedjaz Railway).

10. A sum of £T. 300 is allowed annually for "post-graduate" study abroad by the board's doctors.

Various *vœux* accompany the report. Attached to the fourth resolution is a *vœu* for the exemption from customs dues of objects imported by the sanitary administration from abroad, and for the despatch of telegrams in the French language (telegrams from abroad, and for the despatch of telegrams in the French language (telegrams exempt) without charge. Both these exemptions were in force until two years ago).

Attached to the sixth resolution is a *vœu* for an *entente* between the Constantinople and Alexandria boards, which would permit of the use of the latter's lazaret of El Tor

or pilgrims going towards the Hedjaz from the north in an infected "hajj." Should this *entente* not be brought about, the mixed commission will consider the possibility of constructing a large new lazaret at the north end of the Red Sea (an alternative which, it may be said in passing, would be practically impossible to execute).

Finally the report ends with a *vœu* that the Board of Health will provide some of the principal Turkish ports with steam launches for the interrogation of ships arriving there.

Customs.

It is necessary to say little more under this heading than that the work of reorganisation begun three years ago has continued to make steady progress under the able supervision of Sir R. F. Crawford. The almost complete absence of specific complaints to the embassy, which was noted in last year's report, has continued. Inadequate accommodation is still complained of in certain ports, but this grievance is being gradually met, and it may be hoped that it will eventually be entirely overcome by the construction of new buildings, for which a considerable sum is set aside in each year's budget, and in some places by the construction of new ports by concessionnaires.

The customs revenue has continued to improve as is shown by the following figures taken from the budget statement for the coming financial year 1328 (March 1912-February 1913) —

	Piastres.
Import taxes (including the 3 per cent. surtax)—	
For 1324 (March 1908–February 1909)	1,792,341
„ 1325 (March 1909–February 1910)	402,535,636
„ 1326 (March 1910–February 1911)	447,871,847

British Claims and other Cases.

The tendency to an increase in the number of cases arising out of disputed questions of principle, which was noted in last year's report, has continued to manifest itself during the past year. Old controversies between the Porte and foreign missions which, under the Hamidian régime, were prevented by a system of working compromises from becoming uncomfortably acute, are being continually revived. Intransigence on the one side begets intransigence on the other, and the result is that every embassy in Constantinople has a list of unsolved and insoluble questions. No progress has been made with any of the "delenda" questions interesting all the missions, such as, for example, the "octroi" tax at Adrianople, the liability of foreign missionary establishments to taxation, the application of the Turkish law on the subject to foreign commercial companies, and the constantly growing number of questions relating to the operation of the Capitulations. Neither has much progress been made with the questions in general order, which turn less on differences as to principle than on the necessity for agreement about details, such as the extension of the patente (temettu) tax to foreigners, the increase of the buoy dues and improvement of the harbour of Constantinople, and the application of the ordinary passport law to foreign pilgrims in the Hedjaz, a subject in which the British and Dutch Governments are more particularly interested.

Turning to specific British cases, a considerable number of minor matters have as usual arisen and been settled in the course of the year. An enumeration of these would do much to counterbalance the depressing effect produced by a survey of the more complicated and long-drawn-out cases which will presently be specified, but as the matters in question are not as a rule of any great individual interest, it would serve no other useful purpose.

Of the older cases settled in the course of the year the following may be specially mentioned —

1. *Bagdad Expropriations.*—This case dates from 1910, when the municipal authorities of Bagdad proceeded to expropriate and demolish property belonging to various British subjects, without due regard to the legal procedure and without adequately compensating the owners. At the beginning of 1911 the embassy filed a claim of £T. 5,400 on behalf of Messrs. Lynch and the other British subjects concerned. The local authorities strenuously denied liability, and it was only after the rupture with Italy caused the Porte to realise the necessity for adopting a more conciliatory policy towards England, that the Central Government decided to pay the amount out of the Imperial Treasury. This was done at the beginning of December and the amount recovered is now being distributed.

2 *Hodeidah Hides*.—This dates from June 1909 when a Turkish gunboat in the Red Sea captured an Ottoman dhow with a cargo of British owned hides of the estimated value of £1 350. The hides were confiscated by the Hodeidah Customs authorities, notwithstanding the protests of His Majesty's Vice-Consul, and after unsuccessfully attempting to negotiate a settlement with the Customs administration the Embassy addressed the Porte on the subject. The merits of the case were very doubtful, and the principle question of fact, namely, whether the seizure took place on the high seas or not, seemed impossible of elucidation. Eventually a basis was found for a compromise by which the owners of the hides stood to receive about £750 and the Foreign Office authorised the Embassy to accept not less than that amount. Further hitches arose, but in December the amount payable under the compromise was remitted by the Central Customs administration to Hodeidah with instructions to pay it to the British subjects' representatives. News of the actual payment is awaited daily.

3 *Tyrrel and Nicol Claim*.—This is a claim for £170 advanced by the Foreign Office to two officers in the Macedonian gendarmerie in 1907. The Porte, after very great delay, was at last induced to admit its liability. A subsidiary question has however arisen, as the claim dates from before the constitution, and the Ministry of Finance took the view that it must be included in the floating debt of the Empire which would involve a great delay in securing actual payment of even whatsoever percentage may eventually be paid on account of floating debt claims. The Embassy has pointed out that the matter is an insignificant one, and that as the real creditor is the Foreign Office means should be found to settle it at once. There is now a good prospect of the amount being paid out of the contingencies fund.

4 *Seyyid Mehmed*.—This case arose in 1910 out of the illegal arrest and maltreatment by the Baghdad police of a British Indian subject named Seyyid Mehmed and the violation of his domicile, all in connection with a charge of theft. The man was subsequently condemned by default to six months imprisonment, although His Majesty's Consul-General had withdrawn his dragoman pending an enquiry into the charges brought against the police. The Embassy took up the case strongly, and although the official answer of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was unsatisfactory, continuous pressure at the Ministry of Justice secured the condemnation of a policeman and a gendarme to six and a half months' imprisonment, and Seyyid Mehmed being apparently a person of doubtful character and having disappeared while the case was being discussed, the Embassy considered the satisfaction adequate, though it did not cover all the points of the case, and His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad was authorised to allow the proceedings against the British subject to be resumed.

5 *Bishopric Property at Jerusalem*.—This case arises in connection with the larger of two properties owned by the Anglican Bishopric and held in the name of the present bishop. Some time ago the Turkish authorities put forward the pretention that the property was Crown land notwithstanding the fact that Dr Blyth's title-deeds clearly stated it to be freehold. After great delay the Porte definitely accepted that latter view, and the Embassy obtained for the particular institution in connection with which the question had been raised a new firman in which the freehold character of the property was affirmed.

6 *Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission at Bi Bayda*.—Some three or four years ago the archbishop's mission to the Nestorian Christians obtained permission to build a school and chapel at the vilayet of Van. It was eventually decided not to build there but at Bi-Bayda in the Amadia district of the Mosul vilayet. The Embassy applied for the usual firman, but great delay was encountered, owing, it is believed, to intrigues on the part of the local Chaldean Catholic party. The Embassy insisted strongly, and at last, towards the end of the year, the necessary Imperial decree was issued. This was just been embodied in a new firman.

The following are the principle outstanding cases begun in 1911, or dating from earlier years:—

1 *Floating Debt*.—All the older British claims on the Turkish Government now form part of the floating debt which includes all duly registered claims dating from before July 1908. Some twenty distinct british claims of varying importance, amounting in all to about 130,000*l* are known to the Embassy. Practically no progress has been made towards paying off the debt. A very unsatisfactory scheme was submitted to Parliament in the spring of 1911, but little if any headway has been made with it. The Bill proposes to settle all claims, subject to certain relatively unimportant exceptions, by the issue of lottery bonds, a fixed number of which will be drawn each year, and the

total amount of which shall be paid off in thirty-three years. These bonds are to carry no interest but about 2½ per cent. of those drawn each year are to carry prizes. Creditors for military supplies, or advances to public departments, are to receive bonds of a face value varying from 10 per cent. to 60 per cent. of their claims, the value of the bonds varying on inverse proportion to the antiquity of the claim. The bankrupt nature of these proposals is best illustrated by the fact that the expenditure contemplated is £T 220,360 a-year for thirty three years, to clear off debts which, at the lowest estimate, must considerably exceed 10 000,000*l*. The Bill excited singularly little protest, but towards the end of the year, the foreign missions addressed to the Porte a strong identic protest against the proposed terms of the settlement. Meanwhile the adoption of any definite measure seems extremely remote.

2 *Adana Claims*.—See p. 56 of the annual report for 1909. The position there described remains unchanged.

3 *Jeddah Robbery and Hassenie Piracy Claims*.—See p. 61 of the annual report for 1910. No appreciable progress has since been made.

4 *Ice Claims at Baghdad*.—This is a claim dating from 1910 for about 200*l* loss sustained by a British merchant, through being compelled to the local authorities to sell ice at an unduly low fixed rate. The local authorities have strenuously denied liability but the Central Government promised in principle, towards the end of 1911, to pay the claim in the same way as the expropriation claims (see above). A hitch arose owing to an allegation by the local authorities that the claimant had waived his demand. But this has been proved to be false and the Embassy is again pressing for settlement.

5 *Mohsin Saifi's Dollars*.—In November 1910, the Customs authorities at Jeddah seized three casks of Maria Theresa dollars to the value of about 500*l*, which were being landed from a steamer. The dollars had been shipped by a British subject at Aden on whose behalf it was alleged that they were intended for Shakir, whither they were duly put off at Jeddah owing to stress of weather. The circumstances of the landing were doubtful, but the Embassy has not yet been completely satisfied as to the *mala fides* of the shipper and the agents, or as to the legality of the procedure. The question has been the subject of protracted negotiations with the Central Customs administration, which has now definitely decided that the action of the Hodeidah authorities must be upheld. It remains to decide whether the case shall be taken up at the Porte, but it seems hardly strong enough to be made the subject of a diplomatic question, more especially as the Central Customs administration has only arrived at its decision after giving the most careful consideration to the views put forward by the Embassy.

6 *Abbot Case*.—This is a case dating from 1909, and arising out of depredations committed on the Avret Hissar district, on the farm of a Mr Abbott of Salonica, by certain villagers. Towards the end of 1910 the Embassy put forward a claim for an indemnity of 400*l* to 500*l*, on the ground that the local authorities had failed in their duty, more especially in view of certain assurances given by the Vali of Salonica before the murder took place. Throughout the greater part of 1911 it seemed as though the murderers would escape, but later in the year he took up an uncompromising attitude with the support of the Ministry of the Interior, and it has again become necessary to press the Porte diplomatically.

7 *Canelly Forest Case*.—This case arises out of depredations committed last January by certain inhabitants of Vodena in the foreste in that district belonging to a Mr Canelly, a British subject. The villagers claimed the right to cut wood in the forest in virtue of an ancient document of little value, but whatever the merits of the claim, the circumstances in which they sought to enforce it were extremely bad, as the raid on Mr Canely's property was organised at a public meeting held at the municipality of Vodena, under the auspices of the Local Committee of Union and Progress. The central authorities of the Province of Salonica did their best to stop the depredations, but they continued for four days owing to the neutral attitude of the local authorities, and the Embassy has put forward a claim against the Government for £T 300 on behalf of Mr Canelly and £T 50 on behalf of Mr Jones, another British subject whose property also suffered. It is unlikely that these claims will ever be admitted, and the object of pressing them is rather to emphasise the necessity for affording proper protection to British property than to recover the amounts named.

8 *Gallia Boycott*.—This case arises out of the boycotting of a flour-mill at Uzun Keupru, in the Adrianople district, for about six weeks in the autumn of 1910. The mill had for many years been worked by a Greek, who leased it in September, 1910, to a British subject named Gallia, who is himself far more Greek than English in his connections and associations. The boycott lasted till November, and it is alleged that

the local authorities failed in their duty by not making it known that the mill had become British and by allowing would-be customers to be prevented by force from dealing with it. Galiba put forward a claim for £T 600, which His Majesty's Consul at Adrianople considers exaggerated. The Embassy, under instructions from the Foreign Office, has put forward no definite claim up to the present, but has confined itself to maintaining that the case is one in which a British business suffered from want of adequate protection. The Porte strenuously denies liability, maintaining that the boycott ceased immediately after the British subject took over the mill and that no violence was used towards would-be customers.

3 *Clonarides Boycott.* This case also arose out of the anti-Greek boycott of 1910. The boycott was carried on with great vigour in Angora and was extended to the British firm of Messrs. Clonarides and Co. (limited), who make beer in the Ilemos and sell it largely in Asia Minor. The total damage to their business has been estimated at a high figure, but the direct responsibility of the Turkish Government is particularly involved in certain incidents which took place at Angora on the 31st October and the 2nd November 1910, when the local authorities were by failing to protect the company's servants from molestation and their beer from destruction. In May 1911 the Embassy intimated to the Porte that the nature of these incidents was such as to justify a claim for compensation as against the Government. No reply has been received, and the question of putting forward a definite claim is still under consideration. The proportion of Messrs. Clonarides's losses, which can be referred with a reasonable definition of the Government's responsibility, appears to be small, and in any case there is little chance of inducing the Porte to accept any liability whatever.

Besides the cases just enumerated there are a certain number of others which involve important British interests, but which it does not seem necessary to mention severally in a report of this kind as the action of the Embassy is confined to supporting the steps taken by the interested parties themselves.

Legislative Work of Parliament.

In the annual reports for 1909 and 1910 stress was laid on the very inadequate manner in which Parliament had fulfilled the expectations of those who hoped for an extensive revision of the antiquated and in many cases illiberal and oppressive laws which the new regime had inherited from the old. The third session, which lasted from the 14th November, 1910, to the 3rd June, 1911, produced even less than its predecessors in the way of legislation of permanent importance. Even the President of the Chamber of Deputies in closing special coal-carry operations no further than to express forced hopes for the future, and, while admitting the sterility of the session, to explain in the Chamber had, as it were, *reçu pour mieux sauter*.

The number of enactments which passed into law was indeed unusually great, for no less than 115 new laws were added to the statute book. The proportion of small financial measures of transitory importance was, however, even greater than in the first two sessions. Of the 145 new Acts of Parliament, over 100 were fiscal measures, and nearly half of these related to current financial arrangements for the years 1911-12 and 1911-12. The most important single step was the Finance Act for the year March 1911-February 1912. The others consisted of laws sanctioning the budgets of certain departments whose financial arrangements are separate from those of the Treasury, laws sanctioning small supplementary credits for unforeseen administrative purposes and transfers of credits from the purposes originally contemplated, special exemptions from taxation, &c. The Finance Law for 1911-12 contains a number of miscellaneous provisions, the effect of several of which extends beyond the year itself. The most interesting articles are perhaps the following:—Article 4, exempting all books from customs duty; article 7, authorising the Government to obtain advances not exceeding £T 2,000,000, to be repaid during the year, by way of Treasury bonds or otherwise; article 8, which authorises the Government to raise loans to cover the Ottoman debt; article 10, which sanctions in principle the execution by contractors on behalf of the State of certain irrigation works in Mesopotamia and directs the departments concerned to prepare a scheme or submission to Parliament; article 11, which sanctions a loan of £T 2,500,000 for the construction of roads; article 15, which effects certain further modifications in the arrangements for superannuated officials of the old régime; article 16, which relieves Ottoman merchant vessels of certain charges, apparently with the object of enabling them to compete with foreign shipping; and articles 17 and 19, which increase the pay of military officers of certain ranks.

The fiscal measures other than those dealing with current finance, number about thirty. Several of these are of little individual importance, *e.g.*, those granting permanent pensions or allowances, those according permanent exemptions from taxation, and those making slight modifications in the civil and military pension laws. A certain number are of interest because, though fiscal in their character, they provide for new administration departures. The most important of these is a short law sanctioning the new organisation of the army and authorising an expenditure of some £T 3,000,000 in elaborating it. Other measures sanction a credit of £T 500,000 for the establishment of a new Ottoman steam-ship administration, a tax of 10 piastres a-head on pilgrims in the Hedjaz for sanitary measures, the remission of customs duty on plant imported for the initial installation of industrial concerns, provision for the establishment of various instruments of reform in the Hauran and for the settlement of tribes in stated portions of the province of Diarbekir, besides a few other matters of less general interest. A small but interesting group of four short laws provides for the commutation of certain allowances of an antiquated kind connected with pious foundations, the suppression of certain other foundations, the sale of useless buildings and sites, other than mosques, belonging to certain foundations, and the devotion to more useful purposes of the proceeds of the latter operations. These measures, though unimportant in their actual scope, indicate a tendency to tackle the very large problems which arise in connection with mortmain in every part of the Empire. In conclusion, separate mention may be made, because of the melancholy interest which attaches to it, of a law regulating taxation in the districts of Fezzan and Ghadames in North Africa "pending the reform of the taxes and the establishment on a sound basis of the system of incidence in those regions and the creation of fresh sources of commercial activity and wealth."

Apart from this fiscal legislation the total output for the Session in the way of new laws consists of ten measures of varying importance. One of these sanctions the provisional commercial Convention with Bulgaria which was hurriedly concluded for one year upon the breakdown of the negotiations for a permanent commercial treaty in February 1911. Another sanctions the convention with Mr. Wenli's international consortium of telephone companies for the establishment of a telephone system in Constantinople and the suburbs. Two new laws deal with military matters, namely, the conditions under which reservists (redifs) are allowed to contract out of personal service, and the appointment and promotion of officers in the Yemen, Hedjaz, Nejd, and Fezzan. Of two other short laws, one modifies the arrangements made in the law of 1909 constituting the province of Constantinople for determining the hierarchical position of the directorate-general of police in Constantinople and the directorships of police in the provinces, while the second introduces a slight change into the existing law by enabling the plaintiff in a civil action to recover a specific object to attach the object in question pending trial. There remain the following four laws of more general scope:—

1 *Appendix to the Code of Civil Procedure.*—This law modifies in several important particulars the existing law promulgated in 1879. Its most interesting provisions are those which lay down new rules for determining the competence of courts, those which introduce a system of written pleadings, shorten the time for appeal, and narrow the range of other less normal ways of contesting judgments, those which revive the public sittings of the Court of Cassation, and those, which perhaps rather unwisely, facilitate the bringing to book by the parties to a suit in a cause of corrupt or indolent judges. This law does not affect foreigners to any great extent except in regard to matters arising out of the ownership or tenancy of real property, as most other civil cases of any importance concerning them are dealt with by the mixed commercial courts in which a special code of procedure is applied.

2 *Appendix to the Penal Code.*—This, like the preceding law, was presented to Parliament in order to secure urgent improvements in the existing law pending a complete revision on up-to-date lines of the code hitherto in force. The existing code is modelled very closely on the "Code Napoleon" and dates from over half a century ago. The new appendix does not lend itself to summarisation, as, apart from certain modifications in regard to such matters as repeated offences, complicity, responsibility, *e.g.*, of minors, guardians, and persons acting under constraint, and suchlike changes of a general kind, it consists of a large number of articles dealing with the punishment of specific offences.

3 *Law on Passports.*—This law replaces the older law of 1894, and is of importance to foreigners as that law has been duly recognised by the foreign missions as applying to their nationals. The changes introduced by the new law are not such as to necessitate any strenuous opposition on the part of the missions. Certain of the provisions are of special interest to His Majesty's Government in consequence of their

special bearing on the troublesome question of the passports of Indian and Malay pilgrims visiting the Hedjaz, but the only important provision of more general interest is that which relieves all persons leaving the Ottoman Empire of the obligation to show passports, a change adopted in the Chamber of Deputies by only a very small majority.

4. *Law on the Promulgation of Laws.* This law prescribes the formalities for the registration of new laws and regulations at the Imperial Chancery and the Ministry of Justice and their publication in due course. It lays down, that in the absence of express provision to the contrary, new laws and regulations shall become operative sixty days after their publication in the "Official Gazette" at Constantinople, and that no law or regulation shall be retrospective in its action except such as mitigate the penalties attaching to offences.

The fourth session of Parliament began on the 14th October, 1911, i.e., a month earlier than usual. At the moment of writing the dissolution of the present Parliament seems inevitable, so that, except for the possibility of a short resumed session in the spring of 1912, almost the whole of the fourth session will have fallen within the year 1911. It is however, too soon to estimate the legislative work of this session, and it must suffice to say that it will probably prove, when the results of its activity are published, to have been incomparably more sterile in this respect than any of its predecessors. It may be noted in concluding this section of the report that the executive shows an increasing tendency to avail itself of its constitutional powers to promulgate new laws during the recess, subject to ratification by Parliament when it reassembles. Thus in the recess between the third and fourth sessions no less than thirty-three provisional laws were promulgated in this way. These were mostly short laws dealing with fiscal matters. Some interest attaches to one measure imposing a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* on goods imported from Italy, and to a small group providing for the amnesty of persons concerned in the Albanian revolts and granting the credits necessary for the carrying out of the promises made to the insurgents.

The Turkish Press in 1911.

The two outstanding features of the report on the Turkish press for 1910 were the repeated suppression by court-martial of the more vigorous opposition newspapers and the murder of a prominent journalist, and in these respects Turkish history has faithfully repeated itself. Except for a few smash-hacking articles on Mesopotamia which appeared in the "Tanin," and in which Ismail Hakki Babanzadé, one of the deputies for Bagdad, drew his countrymen's attention to the necessity of keeping an eye on British influence and ensuring the rebellious Arabs, the attitude of the press in the early part of the year was fairly calm. The opposition to the Government and to the methods of the Committee of Union and Progress, however, began to increase, led by the "Shehbal," and by a newspaper published, under various names by the deputy Lutfi Fikri and it was at its height in July when Zeki Bey, the writer of several violent anti-Committee articles, was shot. As in the two previous cases where a journalist was murdered, public opinion attributed the crime to political motives, but whereas the murderers of Hassan Fehmi and Ahmed Samim remain at large (or at least at liberty—to this day two men were arrested on suspicion of having caused the death of Zeki Bey, and their trial is still causing great excitement. Martial law ensured the speedy suppression of any newspaper which published articles "calculated to stir up public opinion," particularly when such articles were directed against the Government or the Committee of Union and Progress, and when the Said Pasha Cabinet came into power, the court-martial published a proclamation forbidding the press to attack either the Government as a whole or the ministers individually, and limiting its power to calling the attention of the Government to desirable reforms. Not only did this measure fail to protect the Government from hostile criticism, but it even caused attacks to be made on the court-martial itself. Numerous suppressions took place, but the climax of the struggle was reached when Lutfi Fikri, disdaining to take advantage of a ludicrous defect in the press law, brought out his paper in spite of the court-martial's decree of suppression, without a change of name. This led to his being "invited" to attend the court-martial to give an explanation, and the incident, being regarded by the Opposition as an attempt to arrest a deputy, and therefore as an infringement of the constitution, caused a long and acrimonious debate in the Chamber, which was only brought to an end by the intervention of a deputy from Benghazi, who, by striking the patriotic note, secured a victory for the Government. For a short time after this incident a greater discretion was observed by the court-martial, but more recently the policy of suppressing

the Opposition papers and conniving at their continued appearance under new names was resumed.

The immense growth of the Opposition press has been balanced by a decline in the influence of the "Tanin." This paper continues to be run by Hussein Jahid, one of the deputies for Constantinople, on Union and Progress lines, but circumstances have caused certain changes in its policy during the past year. The Tripoli war, for instance, compelled Jahid to confess that he had serious thoughts of abandoning the neutral foreign policy which he had always supported, in public, until then. He attracted much attention and lost some credit soon after the commencement of the war by vigorously championing an understanding with Russia for the opening of the Straits, perhaps the most widely unpopular cause which could be championed by any Turkish journalist. In another very noteworthy article Jahid read a severe lecture to those who make Turkey's difficult position still more embarrassing by talking wildly about Pan-Islamism, and disclaimed any desire on the part of the Young Turks to interfere in the internal affairs of Egypt. This attitude is probably becoming more general in Turkey, and it is said that the circulation of the Pan-Islamic weekly, "Surat-i-Mustekim," has declined. It is to be noted that the Persian situation has been treated in the most guarded terms by the Turkish papers, and that there has been no such outburst of pro-Moslem feeling as might have been expected.

Of the local papers published in languages other than Turkish, some reference may be made to two which were dealt with more fully last year. The "Osmanischer Lloyd" continues its original policy, though its efforts to prove that the German Codlin, and not the English Short is Turkey's friend were considerably hampered by the action of Germany's ally in Tripoli. The "Jeune Turc" is still tinged with Pan-Islamism, and it was one of the articles in this paper which called forth the rebuke from the "Tanin." The "Jeune Turc" also remains Germanophile and distinctly anti-Russian in tone, and it did not join the general movement away from the Triple Alliance which was observed in the press on the outbreak of the war in Tripoli. In home affairs, however, its views have altered. It has frequently taken the Committee of Union and Progress to task for having given up the high ideals with which it set out, and at the end of the year, while the members of the party of Union and Progress are making the maintenance of Said Pasha an indispensable condition of an agreement between them and the Entente Libérale, the "Jeune Turc" is clamouring for the removal of Said Pasha as the man who "made Abdul Hamid."

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TURKEY.

Annual Report, 1912.

[18393]

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April 21.*)

(No. 315.)

Constantinople, April 17, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein the annual report on Turkey for the year 1912.

I am indebted to the members of my staff for assistance in the compilation of this report, and to Dr. Clemow for the section dealing with the sanitary affairs of the Empire.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure.

Annual Report on Turkey for the year 1912.

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Internal Politics.

Throughout the year the country has been at war, but, so far as my observation goes, this fact, if it ever for a moment mitigated the bitterness of party strife, certainly never led the rival factions to sink their differences and allow the cooler statesmen in the Government to look the inevitable in the face and endeavour to patch up peace on the least disadvantageous terms possible. If anything the contrary was rather the case, for the hotheads of the Committee party took advantage of the state of war to air their chauvinism, and in the name of patriotism raise the cry of "No Surrender!" with the result that responsible Ministers on either side feared to put their names to a treaty which could be denounced as humiliating, and so lay them open to subsequent attack.

The New Year found the country in the midst of the first party struggle in which the "Entente" Opposition had given proof of the strength of the forces behind it. The question at issue was a modification of article 35 of the Constitution intended to enlarge the prerogative of the Crown as regards the dissolution of the Chamber, which had been unduly curtailed by the framers of the Constitution of 1908. The measure in itself was a useful one, but it was not as by that time commended itself to Said Pasha's Cabinet, whose only motive in introducing it arose from the fact that the Committee majority in the Chamber was fast dwindling away, and had to be reconstituted by a general election conducted under its own auspices. On the 30th December, 1911, Said Pasha had resigned and had been at once entrusted by the Sultan with the formation of a new Cabinet. Except for the substitution of Hadji Adil Bey, ex-secretary of the Committee of Union and Progress, for the Extremist Hilmi Bey at the Ministry of the Interior, no change was made in the Cabinet which at once proceeded to bring the disputed Bill before the Chamber. It was again rejected, but the provision of the Constitution that a Government measure must be twice thrown out before a case of "conflit" between Ministers and the Chamber is established having thus been fulfilled, the question of dissolution was referred to the Senate, which, after extracting an assurance from the Government that the opportunity of Parliament not sitting would not be taken advantage of to conclude peace with Italy, gave the required advice to the Sultan and on the 17th January the Chamber was formally dissolved.

The Committee then set itself to the task of preparing for the elections. Albania being the focus of the most dangerous opposition, it was decided, in the hope of preventing the massacres, and incidentally of boycotting the foreign press, to allow Hadji Adil Bey to proceed on a general tour of inspection with extensive powers to redress grievances and to expend considerable sums on public works. Mr R. W. Graves, who was Lieutenant-Colonel Fethi, one of the French gendarmerie officers, accompanying the mission, was convinced of the personal sincerity of the Minister, but Hadji Adil's good will elsewhere received scant recognition, the mission being met almost everywhere with cold mistrust, and even attack on several occasions, and when it returned to the capital late in May Hadji Adil had to confess that no promise of reform would command the smallest confidence in Albania unless entrusted to foreigners. With this conviction he succeeded in enduring his colleagues to consent to the application being made in London, and later also in Paris, where a certain success was caused by the preference shown for British assistance for the services of a number of officers to create a local gendarmerie in Albania and the other European provinces, while later in the year, during Ghazi Mukhtar's administration, the idea of having recourse to foreign advisers was extended to embrace the whole Empire. Considerable scepticism was expressed at the time as to the *bona fides* of Said Pasha's Government in this matter, and I must confess that while I am convinced of the sincerity of such members of the Cabinet as Assim Bey, I feel equally certain that the real Committee leaders only agreed to the proposal with considerable mental reserves.

If Hadji Adil's experiences in Albania were discouraging not much more comfort could be extracted from the reports from the other provinces, and the Committee recognised that success at the polls could only be secured by drastic measures. With all the resources of the new administration at its disposal, and without the smallest scruple in employing them, the Committee left no device untried to ensure their success. Opposition candidates were detained from their constituencies or called out to do their military service, three of the leaders of the Opposition in the late Chamber were imprisoned on a flimsy charge and another was forced to fly from the country, electors were threatened with arrest or overawed with a display of military force,

while gerrymandering and altering the date of elections were the commonest of the minor measures resorted to. The result was a foregone conclusion, and when, on the 15th April the Chamber was formally opened, the official Opposition deputies could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and even when, later in the elections were completed they did not muster over the ten. From a parliamentary point of view the position of the Cabinet was unassailable, and, with the great need of a strong government in the critical state of the nation's affairs, that the lease of the Committee's power should be renewed was, perhaps, in a sense, not undesirable. As a matter of fact the Cabinet, however was standing on very [illegible] The country, already disillusioned and disgusted with the results of three years Committee management of home affairs, was exasperated by the shameless effrontery of the elections, and was being persuaded, by the attitude of Europe in the question of the reopening of the Dardanelles that in foreign affairs also the Committee had shown no more political sagacity than in internal administration. The rival Committee propaganda of Colonel Sadik Bey was also making great strides in the army and the Committee chiefs, who have always understood that in constitutional theory to possess the last resources with the army, seeing that the pay on which it lived, the only real resistance at least that they could rely was being withdrawn were so possessed with the precariousness of their position that they made secret overtures to Kiamil Pasha to assume the Grand Vizierate, but the offer was firmly rejected.

The pulse that was to ascertain the existence of the Committee's power came from Albania. Throughout Europe in Turkey the smouldering fires kindled by three years of reckless and inept policy of "Touchiterre," enforced by repeated and useless military expeditions, had for months past been near the point of bursting into flame. In March, 1912, when the mixture of races and creeds prevented anything like effective action, the general discontent found itself an renewed, hard-fought and fruitful expression in a campaign of bomb throwing, intended to provoke massacres and so attract the attention of Europe to the doubtful blessings of constitutional government in Macedonia as applied by the Young Turks, but in Albania, bound together by community of race speech and tradition, resolution was possible, and at early in the year threats of a rising had been heard. Then, in April, came the opportunity of the first serious set-back. Its success was at first doubtful though the successful attacks on the troops were of no serious significance, but at the end of the month Captain Tayar Bey and fifty rank and file of the regular army was a present of real danger. The Government made a serious attempt to capture the rebels, and similar successes to the rebels began to [illegible] Ali Pasha Dibra, a leading Albanian chieftain among whom the most influential was Hassan Bey Prishtina, united with Turkish powers at Prishtina, seized the town, and [illegible] Ottoman soldiers. Hassan Bey's successful commands for the resignation of the Cabinet and free and free election were granted. The half-hearted measures that Government took against the rebels were calculated to irritate rather than inspire respect, and so by the middle of June the greater part of the troops hurrying to repress the revolt were fraternising with the insurgents. In these circumstances Committee leaders felt that, just as a year before Ismail and Djavid Beys had been thrown overboard so now a sacrifice must be made to [illegible] and on this occasion Mahmud Shevket Pasha was selected as the scapegoat. The fall of the famous Minister of War, who had successfully [illegible] crises, seemed to [illegible] the severity of the danger, but the sacrifice was made in vain, for, after [illegible] attempts to reconstruct his Ministry, Said Pasha, [illegible] at the threats of the Extremist Liberal military" officers to close the Chamber by force, resigned on the 10th July.

The fall of the Said Cabinet was hailed with general relief, and the country looked for the formation of a strong Liberal Government, which would [illegible] the action of the members of the occult Committee, and [illegible] it from its [illegible] activities. It may be that events had already gone beyond the reach of remedy, in any case, it is certain that the right steps were not taken to secure it. It was Turkey's misfortune that at so critical a moment in her history the reigning Sultan should have been worse than a nonentity. Public opinion demanded the advent of Kiamil Pasha to power but the Sultan, whose mind has been so successfully poisoned by his Committee entourage, had become obsessed with the conviction that Kiamil wished to depose him. With the usual obstinacy of the weak, he determined to accept Kiamil as Grand Vizier, though he agreed to his inclusion in the Cabinet. In justice to the Sultan, it should be said that many believed that the appointment of Kiamil as Grand Vizier would have driven the Committee extremists to desperation, and that there was a real risk of disorder in the capital. Kiamil himself no doubt shrank from forcing himself on the

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Sultan, and he therefore accepted the post of President of the Council of State rather than that of Minister for Foreign Affairs, probably reflecting that if, as seemed inevitable, he should later be called to power, his position would be less open to attack if he were not to associate himself, personally, with the conclusion of a humiliating peace with Italy. Thus a transition Ministry, composed of the more moderate members of both parties, was formed under Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha as Grand Vizier, with Hilmi and Mahmud Pashas, both ex-Committee Ministers, at the Departments of Justice and Marine, Nazim Pasha, Minister of War, Jemal eddin Effendi as Sheikh-ul Islam, Gabriel Effendi Noradounghian as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Abdurrahman Bey, Minister of Finance. The coalition was a failure from the first, Kamil and Nazim Pashas and the Sheikh-ul Islam, who thoroughly understood the capacities of the Committee for evil and its unscrupulous readiness to use them, were constantly thwarted in their endeavours to break its power by the influence of Hilmi and Mahmud Mukhtar, thanks to whose efforts its wonderfully complete organisation, which had its ramifications in every branch of the administration, and practically controlled the postal and telegraph services, was left untouched, nor, although the Government was pledged to secure absolute freedom in the general elections was any attempt made to replace the Committee nominees among the vali and other provincial officials by impartial men, until Hilmi Pasha left the Cabinet in the middle of September.

The internal difficulties that confronted the new Cabinet were immense, to say nothing of the task of bringing the Italian war to a not too humiliating termination. In the Chamber there was a huge hostile majority opposed to its dissolution, while at Prishtina 50,000 Albanians were demanding it. The sanguinary outrage of Berana had brought the country to the verge of war with Montenegro, and the Kochana massacre had raised a storm of public feeling at Sofia, which the impotence of the Turks to punish the guilty parties was little calculated to calm. It is noteworthy that, in dealing with the two latter questions the Government met the foreign representatives made to them with just the same response of successive barefaced denials, prevarications, and unfulfilled promises as was customary under Abdul Hamid. The probable explanation is that thanks to their neglect to buy the administration of the Committee agents and adherents, they were powerless to exact obedience from their officials at a distance and to conceal their impotence took refuge in the methods they had been brought up in. Moreover, the Berana and Kochana incidents were but trifles in their eyes as compared with the Albanian insurrection.

The first and foremost demand of the Albanian insurgents had been for the dissolution of the Chamber and fresh elections and fitting in as it did with the exigencies of the parliamentary situation the Cabinet had every reason to be ready to concede it. But the means of doing so with the proper appearance of legality were not easy to find, and a week was wasted in futile debate before an ingenious solution was propounded on the theory that the existing Chamber had been elected only to complete the four years life of the 1908 Chamber. Only by a very strained interpretation of the Constitution could such a theory be maintained, but the Senate at once accepted it and the Chamber, to the surprise and rage of the Committee majority was accordingly dissolved by iradé on the 6th August.

Meantime Marshal Ibrahim Pasha and Ali Danish Bey had been despatched to examine the other grievances of the insurgents, which had been summed up in a list of fourteen demands, and had been authorised to concede them, with the result that the clansmen who had meantime taken possession of Uskub were induced to disperse and return to their homes. It was noted at the time that no public announcement of these concessions was made in Constantinople, but the reason for this silence was obvious as it became known that somewhat similar demands, but more precise and tending in the direction of autonomy, were coming in from the other Albanian districts. It was one thing for the Government to give way under the pressure of 30,000 rebels at Prishtina and Uskub to the minutely particular demands of Hassan Bey it could be done by administrative order to the local authorities—but it was quite another matter to concede the sweeping charters drawn up by the more educated Orthodox Albanians of the Yanina vilayet and by the Austrian Bishop of Scutari on behalf of the Catholic clans in the north. This would have required parliamentary sanction and the recognition of a territorial Albania. A special régime officially granted to one race made it impossible, logically, to refuse similar aspirations to the other non-Turkish races in the Empire, and in the eyes of the vast majority of the Turks would have been the first step in the path of disintegration. Small wonder that the Cabinet shrank from publicity and tried to temporise.

In the midst of these hesitations and reluctances came towards the end of August the bombshell of the Berchtold proposals, inviting the Powers to consider the advisability of recommending to the Porte the adoption of the principle of decentralisation in dealing with the question of the future of the European provinces. In itself the proposal was harmless, but the ill-advised publication told the world that one great Power believed that the Porte was incapable of decent government and it, besides being a direct moral encouragement to the discontented elements both at home and abroad, was the Porte it was a staggering blow to the prestige of the Cabinet which was bitterly attacked, and endeavouring in the face of the greatest difficulties to remedy the disastrous results of the Committee's "Turcification" policy. Under the taunts of the Committee press that the weakness of the Cabinet had invited foreign interference in Turkey's internal affairs, the Grand Vizier, whose failing health the strain had told heavily, at once informed the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador that the Porte could accept no advice on matters domestic or military, but at the same time the Government, weakened by the pressure of events, failed to make a virtue of necessity and announced that the reforms conceded by Berlin in Pasha would be extended not only to the other Albanian provinces but to the whole of European Turkey.

To bring about the promised reforms required, in the peculiar conditions of European Turkey, many months of preliminary study and preparation, yet the Balkan allies, encouraged by the moral support of the Berchtold proposals, demanded that Turkey, while the friends of the Sick religious make a serious progress, should at once put the country, and accomplish the work of years in a week or two, while the Parliament must be dissolved at the Turkish Government, certainly by no means of sufficient wealth, in their own words to their military power, by which has long accustomed to despise showed but little interest of their own, were never replying to the still more slight representations of the Bulgarian Government over the Kochana massacre in spite of contemptuously.

The successive steps which led to the outbreak of war are sketched in another part of this report, it is enough here to say that the Porte was plainly misled by the Powers, assurances of the friendly intervention of the Powers to offer to put the Moslem in the Balkan States would be protected by the international commission in Constantinople, but that was the last straw and Turkey declared hostilities.

From the first the efforts were against the Turkish forces, and when the disasters were known Kiamil Pasha was invited by the Sultan to become Grand Vizier partly because it was felt that strong personal influence could be brought to bear on the Allies, and partly because it was hoped that Kiamil's relations with our Ambassador might be of great advantage. The Cabinet was formed by Kiamil, but the Ministry of War was given to Nazim Pasha, who had been Minister of War in the Cabinet of Said Pasha, and was considered to be the strongest man in the Cabinet. It was the Minister of War who was responsible for the preparations for the Porte's defeat in the war, and it was he who was responsible for the result of the war was withdrawn. Kiamil's position was received by the Cabinet with a sense of relief, and it was the extent of the country's disasters became known the people were prepared to support the Government in favour of immediate negotiations for peace. Under Mahmud Shevket Pasha's command. Later, however, it became clear that the Cabinet was about to ask for an armistice. This was contemplating the possibility of the loss of the whole of the European provinces and further opportunity for attack by Kiamil's enemies. Chatalja was being at San Stefano and Chatalja, but in spite of this the Committee party did its best to the early appearance of the Bulgarian armies. Before Chatalja and still more after the failure of the attacks of the 18th November, a decisive success for the Ottoman arms, and the need Kiamil Pasha as Grand Vizier, who was about to "Save the European provinces" but the opposition was very strong. Their influence with which the Government, in the midst of more pressing responsibilities, regarded this rival to the sovereignty of the Committee that a plot seems to have been formed to overthrow the Cabinet by a *coup d'état*, which was, however discovered with the result that a number of Committee leaders were arrested. Many rumours of attempts were then circulated and by the end of the year each of the members of the Committee had succeeded in worming themselves into the confidence of the Minister of War Nazim Pasha.

Meantime the armistice had been concluded (the 24th November) and on the

10th December the delegates of the belligerents began negotiations in London, but the last fortnight of the year expired without any substantial progress having been made towards the conclusion of peace.

Foreign Policy of Turkey

"The foreign policy of Turkey which I described last year as being that of not leaning towards one group of Powers rather than the other has met with even worse success than in the previous years of the Constitution.

There are, doubtless, men who desire to save the Empire. But they do not appear to be willing to recognise facts, but seem rather desirous of recreating Turkey on a foundation of paradox. Turkey does not appear to realise, though advice to this effect has been given her frequently enough, that the first necessity is to concentrate her energy on internal affairs.

Turkey relying on the old traditional policy of being able to play off one Power or grouping of Powers against another and blind to the possibility of an alliance between the Balkan States, neglected to understand that her internal dissentions and her failure to satisfy the legitimate demands of foreign Powers for reform could not but have a bad result, and realised, but too late that she was left friendless and unsupported in Europe.

But her statesmen appear to be gradually appreciating that it was not sufficient to desire an alliance and to offer it, but that it must be accepted by the other contracting party.

In the question of the Italian war the truth came home to her that an alliance with Germany would have been out of the question, seeing that Germany was allied to Italy. An alliance with England would have been equally out of the question, seeing that Great Britain and France had given Italy a free hand in Tripoli.

Turkey must then rely on her own resources and endeavour to reform before she could hope for practical support. The present Grand Vizier, then Minister of War expressed himself somewhat strongly to the effect that England and France were responsible for the war, and a word from either would have been sufficient to stop it.

The war with Italy, which had never evoked much enthusiasm, continued throughout the year and the Cabinet, and the Government could not pluck up sufficient courage to put its signature to a treaty which entailed the loss of the African provinces, while fully realising that there was not the faintest hope of preserving them, the reason put forward being the danger to be apprehended from the Arabs of the Yemen and Syria. Endless were the combinations that were suggested, as supreme effort being made to avoid the necessity of a desire to annex Cyrenaica to Egypt.

True to the traditions of this country of always realising facts too late, it was not until Turkey was on the eve of another war that the Government finally decided to make the peace which was signed at Lausanne on the 18th October.

It is difficult to believe that it was not realised that, brought about this result, and, as is probable that Italy saw in the rapprochement of the allies the opportunity of exacting from Turkey the means of putting an end to a war that promised to be prolonged indefinitely.

Blind to what was going on around her Turkey only discovered very late in the day that an agreement had been arrived at between Bulgaria and Servia for common action against Turkey and that the zones of influence in the event of a successful war had actually been defined. Although such an eventuality had frequently been put forward Turkey had always imagined that Servia's fear of Austria would restrain her from acting, and the possibility of Greece acting with Bulgaria had always been ex hypothesi as being outside the zone of political possibilities to such an extent that even up to the very last moment when troops were already on the march an attempt was made to detach Greece from the alliance.

When Europe realised that war was imminent an effort was made to check it by a démarche made in Sophia, Athens, Belgrade and Cettinjé by the Russian and Austrian Ministers on behalf of Europe promising to see that reforms would be taken in hand on the basis of article 23 of the Treaty of Berlin engaging that the sovereignty of the Sultan would not be thereby impeached, but that should war eventually break out no modification of the territorial status of Turkey in Europe would be admitted.

The following was handed to each Minister —

1. The Powers strongly reprobate any means likely to bring about a rupture of peace.

2. On the basis of article 23 of the Treaty of Berlin they will take in hand, in the interests of the different populations, the question of reforms in the administration of Turkey in Europe, it being understood that such reforms shall in no way impair the sovereignty of the Sultan and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

3. If war should break out between the Balkan States and the Ottoman Empire, they will not allow, at the end of the conflict, any modification of the *status quo* of Turkey in Europe.

4. The Powers will, collectively, make representations to the Porte in accordance with the foregoing declaration.

It remains to be seen how far the Powers will, at the termination of the war, abide by this engagement.

The Turkish Government had, in the meantime, made a truly sincere effort to the effect that was permitted to introduce such reforms in Asiatic Turkey as it considered necessary, based on the law of 1880, elaborated by the Ottoman delegates, in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian International Commission.

To this declaration the Powers replied by taking note of it and stating that they would not fail to discuss with the Porte, in the spirit of article 23 of the Treaty of Berlin, the reforms required by the existing condition of affairs in Turkey.

The answer of the Porte, given privately, against the better judgment of some of the Ministers but under the threats of the chauvinistic elements of the country, declared that the Government intended to apply the reforms "to such portions of its territory as circumstances would allow," an unhappy phrase which, in the opinion of many was the cause of the war, though, in the light of later events it does not seem probable that the allies would have stopped at anything short of war.

This note was handed in on the 11th October. On the 9th of that month Montenegro had opened hostilities, to be followed shortly by the other allies, and the war which, at the commencement of the year appears likely to prove disastrous to Turkey was soon in full swing. An account of it appears in another portion of this report.

Turkey, obviously unprepared for the conflict of this magnitude, had always hoping that it would be averted, was unable to realise the rapid change in the views of the Powers. From the assurances of the maintenance of the *status quo* of Turkey, given, it is true, indirectly, a complete change had taken place, and in a few days' interval the position of Turkey in Europe became the natural topic of discussion between the representatives of the Powers, a discussion in which the late "great friends" of Turkey, Germany and Austria freely took part. The end of the year finds Turkey with the exception of Constantinople in the hands of the allies, with the exception of Greece, signed the end December, which, before proceeding to London, were desirous to conclude a basis of peace, in order, it is believed, hoping to save at least what she has not lost, but faced with more exaggerated claims, and internally confronted by the chauvinistic pretensions of irresponsible politicians who conceive that, by insistence on their own terms and by threats of internal disorder, they will achieve their ends.

Turkey's fault has been that she has for years relied too much on Islam, and even on Ottoman military prestige gained under conditions long since passed away. She has now been exposed. She has thereby run the risk of not only losing the reputation of at last having a large and powerful army and even of having ever contemplated the possibility of so disastrous a defeat at the hands of the allies. It has, consequently, been a cardinal principle with the policy of Europe to maintain, as far as possible the territorial *status quo*. The reason for this collapse can not be considered in this paragraph, but the result will obviously bring about a great change in Turkey's relations with foreign Powers, though whether her policy can be more defined seems open to doubt.

Great Britain

The attitude of Great Britain towards Turkey throughout the year has been one of reserve, and it must be admitted that amongst Turks this has created a feeling of profound disappointment. Turkey in her hour of trouble, has turned entirely to England for assistance without enquiring much as to the reasons why this should be

forthcoming. She appears to have completely closed her eyes to the fact that our relations with Russia have been modified since the Treaty of Berlin, and, without stopping to think whether her policy towards Great Britain has been marked by friendliness or not, she has still continued to hope for support. It cannot be said that Turkey has been guilty of any aggressive act towards us, but she has shown a want of readiness in coming to an arrangement regarding the Baghdad Basra line and the Persian Gulf questions. With regard to Egypt we have no special cause of complaint, though no doubt persons in touch with the Government, if not of it, were in close connection with the Nationalist party. There was, however, one incident in connection with Sheikh Shawish. On the 2nd August, 1912, His Majesty's agency at Cairo reported that a certain Ahmed Mukhtar had recently arrived at Alexandria with copies of a seditious manifesto advocating the formation of terrorist societies for the assassination of Egypt's Government authorities. Inquiries led to the belief that the manifestoes had been prepared at Constantinople and its distribution arranged there, and Ahmed Mukhtar admitted that it had been sent to Egypt by Sheikh Shawish.

A Commissioner Regatore was sent to Constantinople by the Egyptian Government for representations in the case of Ahmed Mukhtar and certain Egyptians, including Sheikh Shawish whose arrest, it was stated, would be demanded.

His Majesty's Embassy was instructed to support the action of the Egyptian Government, and representations were made to the Grand Vizier by the Minister of Justice and to Kiamil Pasha, the President of the Council of State, with the result that it was decided to put the state of siege then in force to have the individuals arrested and tried by court martial. Sheikh Shawish was accordingly arrested on the 8th September with a view to being handed over to the Egyptian police, and left for Egypt the same day.

Evidence against Emin was found to be insufficient to prosecute him on the charge for which he was taken to Egypt, and he was released and returned to Constantinople.

Our relations with Turkey during the war will be found fully described in the Italian Blue Book, but it was felt at Constantinople that the Government of the Mediterranean should not be left alone.

In the month of April the Sultan sent to His Majesty King George the insignia of the Imperial Ottoman Orders of Hamidieh, Osmanieh, and the Imtiaz. The Turkish Ambassador in London intimated that the conferring of these Orders was a proof to the Sultan's esteem, and it was suggested that it might also be a great effort in favour of the Mussulmans, as it would not be possible for Mr. Asquith to speak of the anti-Moslem attack of His Majesty's Government with regard to the Italian war when it was known that the Sultan had chosen the moment for bestowing the Orders.

The attitude of neutrality observed by us in the Italian war with regard to Italy was characterised, many going so far as to say that it were Turkey to have a free passage for her troops through Egypt she would probably have done so.

The speech of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Asquith, at the Guildhall on the 9th November, 1912, was criticised by His Majesty's Government and Great Britain generally, but the first reverses in the Balkan war, has been the theme of free comment and has called forth very severe criticism. Mr. Asquith's speech at the Guildhall was cabled expressing the view that the victories were not to be robbed of the fruits which the Turks had won so dearly, was a bitter pill for the Turks to swallow, and a statement which many of them have found it difficult to reconcile with the declaration regarding the integrity of Turkey made before the war. The fact that the Turks has been so bold as to hold up the anger of Great Britain and the attitude towards Turkey, in that Moslem feeling in India would be so much aroused against the British Government as to become a danger, whereas, in reality, probably the opposite result was obtained, as the Moslems of India began to realise the progressive weakness of the Kalifah.

France.

Apart from being as usual, the principal leader to Turkey France has by no means played a prominent rôle throughout the year. There were moments when some indications were shown of France acting against Italy owing to incidents connected with supplies which Turkey hoped to get, influence public opinion in France in her favour, but eventually she joined the chorus of the rest of Europe in advising Turkey to make peace on the basis of the cession of Tripoli and Cyrenaica.

During the year the Ottoman Bank advanced to Turkey over £T. 5,000,000, but whether the latter regards this as a favour or as a profitable piece of business for the bank is somewhat doubtful.

In the matter of the big loan for £T. 25,000,000, which was contemplated for the construction of railways in Albania and Northern Anatolia, no progress has been made, partly, no doubt, owing to the war, partly also to the fact that Russian demands regarding railways in the Black Sea basin have not been complied with.

French diplomacy was actively engaged during a great part of the year in obtaining some modification of the Lebanon protocol, in which, certainly, efforts were made to produce results for the benefit of the Maronites.

France, in common with the other Powers, practically intimated that no new governor would be endorsed until these modifications were introduced, and with this undeclared threat certain amendments were eventually agreed to.

But the attitude of France as regards Syria has not, in the Turkish mind, been free from suspicion, and this was not allayed by the declaration towards the end of the year of M. Poincare, who stated that France was determined to maintain the integrity in Asia Minor of the Ottoman Empire; but that she would not abandon any of her traditions, she would not repudiate any of the sympathies she had acquired, she would not leave in sufferance any of her interests.

She then formally declared to the world that she considered Syria as reserved for her sphere of influence.

This statement was likewise accompanied by another on the part of that Minister to the effect that Great Britain had formally declared that she had no territorial designs in those regions.

During the war with the Balkans the attitude of France with regard to this country has been regarded as frankly unsympathetic and that this is a correct appreciation there can be no doubt. To what extent this attitude has been excused on the ground of France's alliance with Russia, but there can be little doubt that France, which a few years ago might be regarded by the Turks—and especially by the Young Turks, who have taken the French Revolution as their pattern—as a sincere friend, is now regarded with distrust and suspicion.

Austria.

In August Austria made a verbal proposition to the Powers, but not in a concrete form, for giving autonomy to the European provinces of Turkey, ostensibly with the idea of assisting Turkey in her policy of decentralisation, but the impression caused by the proposal was rather that Austria was making an endeavour to obtain more influence in Albania. It was a matter of general knowledge that Austrian agents, whether Government or not was difficult to say, had been actively employed in Albania, and the chiefs of the Roman Catholic clans looked with confidence to the moral and material support of Austria.

The Austrian plan, therefore, which could not fail to meet with opposition from Italy and Russia, left to the ground. But Austria thereby gained a certain popularity amongst the non-Turkish nationalities of the Empire.

Count Berchtold described to the Delegations the step as an exchange of views with the Powers on the subject of the situation in the Balkans, the object of which was to give time for Turkey and if necessary, to furnish her with advice as to her policy for the re-establishment of order. This would be carried out on a unanimous agreement amongst the Powers on the basis of the maintenance of the *status quo*.

It would never be to the interests of Austria to see a powerful Slavonic combination to the south of the Empire, but rather to see the continuance of discord and want of cohesion in the Balkan Peninsula, and it is probably due to Austria that the clause as to the maintenance of the *status quo*, whatever might be the result of the war, was inserted in the communication made at Sophia on the eve of the war.

It remains to be seen whether the new Balkan States will be supported by the Triple Alliance or by the Triple *Entente*, but as matters are at present the indications point to the latter eventuality, and the defeat of Turkey should undoubtedly militate against the Austrian position and influence in this country.

Austria's ambitions in the direction of Salonica appear, at any rate for the moment, to have been nipped in the bud, and it is yet too soon to say whether a conflict is likely to take place between Austria and Russia. With a weakened Turkey Austrian

...ul tops have certainly received a check, and it is likely that her attitude will be less tortuous and vacillating than of late. The United Balkan States, and in these endeavours she will look for such help as can be obtained from Turkey.

Italy.

The war between Turkey and Italy continued throughout the greater part of the year, though in a desultory fashion and without much incident of importance. Perhaps the most striking was the attack on the Dardanelles of the 18th April, for it was promptly followed by the closing of the Straits with mines, with serious consequences to foreign shipping and interests. Italy maintained that, while Turkey had a right to defend herself, she had no right to place obstacles in the way of international commerce through the Straits. This view was not generally shared by the Powers, who, however, used their best endeavours to obtain the reopening of the Straits, which was accomplished after a month's closure.

Although the area taken in the war by Turkey, distant from Africa, was small, and was confined almost to the area of some few hundreds of men and some officers, she was unable, encouraged by the conviction that Italy would be too impotent to complete the task of the conquest of Tripoli under twenty years, to admit her defeat. Endless proposals were put forward to endeavour to find a bridge to reconcile the two points of view. The Italians maintaining the idea of annexation, whereas the Turks declared the proposal to be unconstitutional, as signing away Turkish territory, and it was not till the 15th October that peace was virtually signed at Ouchy. By this instrument Italy established her full sovereignty over Libya, all firmans of sovereignty being annulled to Turkey, on the other hand, Turkey acknowledged no sovereignty on the part of Italy and the Italian Government required no formal acknowledgment of such on the part of Turkey. The Turkish Government undertook to withdraw their officers and men from North Africa, and Italy undertook to restore the islands occupied, when this condition was fulfilled. There was, further a clause providing for the appointment of a Naib to represent the religious authority of the Khalifa in Tripoli.

At the outbreak of the war Italians here had stress on the fact that in any case the results obtained would be to impress on Turkey a greater respect than she had before for Italy. Whether this has been accomplished it is too soon to say, for other circumstances have removed the question of the relations between Turkey and Italy from the sphere of present interest. Great efforts are being made by Italy to establish their relations on a friendly footing, and although Turkey has not yet carried out her engagements to evacuate Cyrenaica the Italian Government wields pressing the matter, does not appear to be doing so in a very energetic manner, which has given rise to a suspicion that she may be making good a somewhat possession of some of the Turkish islands supposed to be only temporarily occupied by her.

The fact that peace was signed with Italy at the very moment when war broke out with the Balkans was regarded as being of such great advantage to this country that Italy would fort with receive more as a great benefactor as it would greatly facilitate the movement of Turkish troops from Asia Minor. While, however, it was proved that Turkey was unable to oppose with the Greek fleet this benefit lost its value, and the position of Italy is somewhat a negative one in Constantinople.

Germany.

At the beginning of the year Germany's position which had been seriously shaken by the outbreak of the war with Italy, of which Turkey conceived she should have had some warning from Germany, still remained an unfavourable one. Baron Marschall was only able in small matters to show his sympathy with Turkey. Placed in a somewhat difficult position as the declared friend of Turkey, and yet being officially charged with Italian interests, he steered well through the difficulties, though at times he incurred the criticism of Italians by his want of energetic action on their behalf.

Baron Marschall's transfer to London was, as regards the position of the German Embassy here a very important feature, and yet it was remarkable how little regret was manifested. Hardly any effort was made to give expression to any outward indication of gratitude for the manner in which Baron Marschall had befriended this country during so many years. That he was, outwardly at any rate, the unqualified

...ver of the deposed Sultan Abdul Hamid may also measure be accredited for this, although the Baron, after the deposition of Abdul Hamid, was at pains to make all the appearance of being in sympathy with the new régime, which he at heart profoundly mistrusted.

In the light of more recent events it is not without interest to recall that amongst some of the Ambassador's last expressions before his departure was one to the effect that, whatever might occur, Turkey would always have to be counted with as a strong military power.

The Baghdad Railway and its adjuncts, and the sale of guns and munitions of war, are practically the main points that hitherto have interested Germany here. Her influence is to a great extent maintained through these valuable factors both of which are the source of the passes enormous sums of money, perhaps not always in a strictly correct manner. Moreover German interests are, besides the influence of the Anatolian railways always steadily defended by the Deutsche Bank, and if we had ourselves the prospect of with Germany we lay at a great disadvantage as the National Bank may look for financial help to political advantages in favour of Great Britain.

The defeat of Turkish arms has been made the most of by Germany's foes, the fact that German instructors had been employed for many years and that the guns were, for the most part, German, has been constantly reverted to, but this does not seem to have had any permanent effect on the sympathy shown to that country, and the very great interest shown by the French press towards Turkey has made it quite plain that in favour of Germany, whose press, in the bad moments of disaster, was always sympathetic.

Russia.

The recall of M. Telarykof the Russian Ambassador in the spring may be regarded as one of the principal features of the relations between Turkey and Russia in 1912. During his tenure of office here M. Telarykof had unobtrusively served in the interest of the Committee of Imperial, and had rendered marked favour on their behalf without apparently obtaining any corresponding success. He believed that he would, even if he did not bring about a Turco-Russian understanding, obtain the opening of the Straits to Russian men-of-war and settle the railway question in the Asia Minor zone. He maintained, if he had not actually declared that England and France would support the Russian views respecting the Straits, and it was no doubt a rude disruption to have when Said Pasha, the Grand Vizier, and Assim Bey (now Minister of Foreign Affairs) that they could not entertain his proposals. M. Telarykof was also credited with a desire to bring about a closer understanding between Turkey and the Balkan States, and by this means to bring Turkey nearer to Russia. Such a policy was evidently resisted by those who held that an understanding with Germany was essential so that the latter might thereby check what were supposed to be her ambitious designs on Macedonia and Salonica.

On M. de Giers' appointment to succeed M. Telarykof, the Turkish Government were informed that Russia intended to make no change in her policy towards this country, but the declaration cannot be said to have had a calming effect, and if the policy of Russia is not changed the methods of the new Ambassador are certainly very different. In all the questions with which he has had to deal he has assumed a peremptory, and occasionally a menacing attitude, and, as regards the Italian conflict, he did not conceal the pro-Italian sympathies of his Government. Some little resentment was also felt at the rather peremptory demands made by Russia for the reopening of the Dardanelles in May after the supposed attack by Italy, and the Turkish Government were most anxious that it should not appear to be giving way to pressure from that quarter.

Especially in the matter of the Turco-Persian boundary has M. de Giers been very persistent, and with some success, for he has obtained the withdrawal from the disputed district of all the Turkish detachments that had been placed there during the last five years, and they have been in some instances replaced by Russian troops.

The other question of importance is that concerning the building of railways in the Black Sea zone. By the agreement of 1903 Turkey is debarred from giving any concessions in that direction. The Russian proposal is that Turkey should bind herself not to build any railway east of Samsun through Erzerum and Diarbekir for fifteen years, nor before that time complete her other railways up to that point. In exchange for this Russia would tear up the 1903 agreement.

The Turkish Government will find it very difficult to agree to anything of this nature, the argument used by them being: "We are invited on the one hand to "improve the position of our subjects in Asia Minor, but we are deprived of the means "of doing so by not being allowed to build railways."

In the war between Turkey and the allies, if Russia has attempted here to adopt a neutral attitude, she has certainly been signally unsuccessful, but it would have been perhaps unreasonable of the Turks to expect it.

At one moment the Russian Ambassador intimated to the Turkish Government that if [illegible] the Bulgarians suffered a defeat Russia would be unable to maintain her neutral attitude. It was somewhat remarkable with what calm the threat was taken here. Beyond some precautions being taken at the mouth of the [illegible] nothing was done. This has generally been attributed to the receipt of an assurance from Germany that if any attack were made on the Asiatic provinces of Turkey Germany would not let it pass without some action on her part.

THE ITALIAN WAR

Throughout the war Turkey's activities have practically been limited to furnishing [illegible] arms, munitions [illegible] officers to the Turco-Arab forces in Libya, and her rôle has been [illegible] less that of a belligerent than a passive spectator. In the actual theatre of war, despite the flamboyant reports of successes sent to Constantinople [illegible] there were no decisive actions on a large scale. The Italians hardly [illegible] range of the guns of the fleet [illegible] slowly and [illegible] important points on the coast [illegible] against [illegible] attacks of the Turco-Arab forces were of no [illegible]. In Turkey [illegible] for the war and such [illegible] existed, was largely [illegible] artificial creation of the [illegible] of the [illegible] Staff. But [illegible] and the Porte gave no sign of a disposition to accept [illegible] terms, Italy endeavoured to apply pressure by [illegible] means [illegible] the Turks certainly resulted in great inconvenience to neutral trade. Thus they bombarded [illegible] from a military point of view, quite valueless ports [illegible] blockaded a considerable stretch of the east coast of the Red Sea, gave support to the rebel chief, Seyyid Idriss, in Assyr, and destroyed an obsolete Turkish [illegible] Beirut, [illegible] a certain amount of damage to the town itself.

[illegible] Powers [illegible] the Russian suggestion first put forward [illegible] for an offer of collective mediation, and after a [illegible] agreed to [illegible] Rome [illegible] Italy [illegible] to these [illegible] seemed to [illegible] communicated to the Powers about the middle of March were [illegible] communication of annexation, [illegible] nevertheless decided to approach the Porte but to [illegible] the new Parliament at Constantinople before doing so, [illegible] the necessity of peace [illegible] to a strong majority [illegible] find courage enough to disregard the [illegible] of the Committee extremists. Any such hopes as may have existed were, however, shattered when on the 18th April the very day that the Sultan opened the new Parliament, a brief action, which seems to have [illegible] on the part of the [illegible] took place between an Italian squadron and the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles; and when a few days later the Turkish reply was received it was found to contain a demand for "the [illegible] intégral des droits souverains de Sa Majesté le Sultan, la [illegible] par l'Italie [illegible] les provinces ottomanes de Tripoli et [illegible] de Benghazi et [illegible] part d'un retour de ses troupes."

In this [illegible] action the Turks saw a threat to attack their capital and the Dardanelles, which had already been [illegible] as a precautionary measure since the Italian fleet had made its appearance in Ægean waters, were at once entirely closed. The inconvenience and loss to foreign shipping was immense, some 140 vessels being shut up inside the Straits, and a nearly equal number kept waiting outside to enter; and representations were at once addressed to the Porte by the neutral Powers to

re-open a sufficient channel to allow vessels to pass. For a time the Porte was quite obdurate, arguing that the closing of the Straits was a vital necessity, and that the proper remedy for the Powers was to give a guarantee against an attack by Italy. This, however, the Powers were not prepared to do, alleging that it would be an interference with the rights of a belligerent, and urging that experience had shown that there would always be time enough to lay the mines required. Eventually, however, the Porte yielded to the pressure which was particularly strong on the part of Russia, and the Straits were reopened on the 1st May. The Porte's obstinacy in this question was probably stiffened by the fact that they had quite recently succeeded in obtaining a further advance from the Imperial Ottoman Bank in consideration of their option for the issue of £T 10,000,000 on behalf of the Government as soon as peace was signed. Most of this money, it is true, was required to meet the budget deficit and very little was left over for war expenditure, but the Committee has a convenient knack of [illegible] unpleasant facts of this kind, and the circumstance that they [illegible] to raise money [illegible] very conveniently to justify the protraction of the war. They had other reasons [illegible] equally specious arguments, if the war was a drain on the Treasury it was not really serious, and in that respect a poor country like Italy would feel its exhausting effects sooner than Turkey, and, again, the Sultan could not abandon his Moslem subjects to the Giaour without loss of prestige which would have disastrous results in the whole of the Islamic world; an argument which, although to the responsible Ministers it was something more than a pretext to extract better terms from Italy, came singularly ill from a party which had exhibited its dissatisfaction for the Arabs by driving them to revolt, and was unable to rouse the [illegible] against the Italian invasion.

Indirectly, however, the "attack" on the Dardanelles, and still more the occupation of Rhodes and other [illegible] islands in the Ægean, made for peace, for the consequent presence of the Italian fleet in those waters gave rise to apprehensions that an attack on Smyrna or the Dardanelles was contemplated, and as a measure of precaution to satisfy public opinion a force of some 40,000 men were collected in the vicinity of Smyrna, while 35,000 troops were stationed south of Gallipoli. Turkish war expenditure consequently rose steadily, and the more prudent Ministers, such as Assim and Nail Beys, began to make their voices heard in favour of peace. Nevertheless, the idea of a European Conference, which had been favourably entertained in Rome, was scouted at Constantinople in spite of the growing disposition to seek for some means of composing the quarrel. Among the many ingenious solutions put forward I would cite but a few, such as, *e.g.*, the cession to Italy of the whole coast except one port to be reserved together with the hinterland to Turkey, the exchange of Libya for the Italian possessions, or part of them, in the Red Sea, the annexation of Libya to Egypt and its administration by Italy with [illegible] of the British control in Egypt, or the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the African provinces which Italy could then [illegible] with as she pleased. This disposition [illegible] Constantinople was of course soon known [illegible] Rome, and quite early in the summer unofficial delegates were allowed to [illegible] from the [illegible] to [illegible] the way towards peace. But Turkey's pretensions were still too high and the mission was a failure. So the war dragged on through July [illegible] only by [illegible] Italian torpedo-boats up the Dardanelles as far as Chanak, and the desperate plight of Turkish domestic affairs warned even the Committee that peace must be made at any price, a conviction which was, no doubt, [illegible] by the reports of the parlous state of the Treasury obtained from Djavid Bey, who had just taken over the portfolio of finance from Nail Bey. As usual the Committee preferred to shroud its doings in mystery, and the departure of its emissaries to Lausanne was at first kept a strict secret. So far as is known, little or no progress was made with the negotiations which were [illegible] of Said Pasha's Cabinet were *pro forma*, broken off. Compared with the many problems, such as the Kotchana massacre, the quarrel with Montenegro, and the Albanian unrest, bequeathed to it by the Committee, the Italian war, probably in the mind of its chief, appears to have had in the eyes of Ghazi Mukhtar a less insistent importance, and [illegible] did not neglect it [illegible] he had, as he fondly hoped, surmounted the crisis in the Albanian question by a meeting of the notables, convoked at Prishtina and Uskub, than he turned his attention to the question of peace, and, eventually, in September the negotiations were resumed at Ouchy. No information as to the course of the negotiations was allowed to transpire, but at the very end of September, Gabriel Effendi admitted that Turkey was about to make her last concession. Meantime, the war clouds were rising over the Balkans, and the Porte, recognising the [illegible] peace of

the peril at length found courage to accept the inevitable, and the treaty of peace was signed on the 5th October [illegible].

[illegible] Italian [illegible] of the treaty [illegible] seemed likely to give rise to [illegible] was that relating to the retrocession of the Ægean Islands in Italian occupation.

The Balkan War.

In October 1911 it was a commonly heard remark that the Italian war might well end in the Balkans, the general anticipation being that the Balkan States, or possibly even Bulgaria alone, would take advantage of some decisive blow being struck by Italy to declare war on the Porte. Such forecasts were unfounded, but none the less it is true that the Italian war was largely instrumental in making the Balkan war possible, not as a consequence of any military success, but by bringing about a displacement of the [illegible] of European politics which tipped the scale slightly on the side of the Entente Powers and therefore also in favour of Russia's protégés.

The real responsibility rests, of course, with the Turks themselves, or, to speak more precisely, with the Committee of Union and Progress, which for just four years controlled the affairs of the Empire. After centuries of oppressive misrule the re-establishment of the Constitution provided an opportunity to redeem the errors of the past and to reconcile the subject races of the European provinces to Turkish rule. But conciliation is a virtue unknown to the Committee, whose reforms had the pretext of welding the various elements of the population into one Ottoman whole, a policy of forcible "Turcification" [illegible] so that Macedonian [illegible] oppression scarcely exceeded that of the days of the "Red Sultan," and Moslem Albania was driven to revolt. In these circumstances, with a political crisis at Constantinople, and with the conviction that Europe was practically committed to save them in case of disastrous failure, it is small wonder that the Balkan States should have braced themselves to the attempt, by a bold stroke, to gratify their own ambitions for territorial aggrandisement [illegible] Macedonia.

At the beginning of 1912 the relations between Turkey and the future allies were at least nominally good. Montenegro, it is true, was still smarting under the recollections of the recent Malissori rising [illegible] frontier [illegible] with Greece the perennial sore of the Cretan question was still open, but the prudent firmness of M. Venizelos could be relied on to prevent a crisis. Servian relations were almost cordial, and with a Gueshoff Cabinet at Sophia and Assim Bey as Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople, there could scarcely be a fairer promise for the future.

In January, the visit of the Crown Princes of Greece, Servia, and Montenegro to Sofia for the celebration of Prince Boris's majority was the first symptom of a rapprochement between the Balkan States, but it was not one advertised at large, so [illegible] misgivings here.

[illegible] was the conclusion of the Servo-Bulgarian Treaty in March. From the versions of it which reached His Majesty's Government from the Bulgarian and Russian Governments it appeared to be of a purely defensive character in the event of an occupation of the Sanjak by Austria, but in the light of subsequent events it is legitimate to conclude either that it contained other provisions or that some other and totally different agreement was signed at the same time. But even as known to us it was of great interest as showing that Servia and Bulgaria could in certain circumstances bury the hatchet.

The conclusion of the Servian Alliance did not become publicly known till quite the end of July, when those with Greece and Montenegro were announced. No uneasiness, however, was felt in Turkey, where public attention was entirely occupied with the internal situation, and, no doubt, a confidence in the military superiority of the Empire produced a sense of complete security. But various circumstances were combining to disturb the outward serenity of the relations between Turkey and the allies. In Macedonia the campaign of bomb-throwing had been growing steadily, and at the end of July, just at the moment when the Committee Cabinet was overthrown, the "bomb-[illegible]" at length succeeded in provoking a massacre of Christians at Kotchana, and under the pressure of public feeling thus aroused in Sophia, the pacific Bulgarian Government was constrained to make friendly, if urgent, representations to the Porte. It is noteworthy that the substitution of Mukhtar Pasha's Cabinet, pledged as it was to reverse the "Turcification" policy of the Committee, was not followed by

a slackening of the activity of the bomb-throwers, and I think it is not unfair to conclude [illegible] were [illegible] Macedonians would force the hand [illegible] Balkan [illegible] were [illegible] the Committee [illegible] Extremists [illegible] especially [illegible] Turkish Cabinet [illegible] to thwart the Government's sincere efforts to investigate the Kotchana incident and punish the guilty, so that the [illegible] the Turkish promises to the Bulgarian Minister [illegible], M. Sarafoff's [illegible] took occasion [illegible] sharp [illegible] aggravated state of affairs [illegible] and Montenegro [illegible] the Berana affair, where a massacre of Christian inhabitants [illegible] was never clearly brought to light, many [illegible] regular forces of the two countries [illegible] conflict.

In Servia, also, [illegible] stir was caused by the assassination of the ex-mayor of Berana, a Serb [illegible] about the massacre at Berana, and [illegible] reports [illegible] of Ottoman Serbs by the [illegible] Albanian [illegible] from Uskub and Prishtina.

With Greece the [illegible] question of the admission of Cretan deputies to the [illegible] with her Balkan neighbours from having [illegible], and this [illegible] symptom [illegible].

[illegible] Berchtold proposals, which [illegible] intentions which [illegible] Balkan States as implying that, in the [illegible] of the two Great Powers which had "special interests" in these regions, Turkey was not fit to manage her own internal affairs, and it was the duty of Europe to [illegible].

The [illegible] with which the Austro-Hungarian proposals met from the other Powers showed both Turkey and the allies that Europe [illegible] for assuming the responsibility for the good government of Macedonia, but while the Turkish Cabinet [illegible] Constantinople [illegible] saw that it was safe to [illegible] that foreign interference in Turkey's internal affairs would not be tolerated, the allies, with a better comprehension of the situation, seized the opportunity of putting the Powers in the dilemma of either guaranteeing the future good government of [illegible] themselves or of [illegible] attention [illegible] the part of the allies to extort it from the Porte. From that point the situation developed with alarming rapidity and the Powers, though still only half convinced that the allies were prepared to carry matters to the last extremity, began urging the Porte to accept the measures of reform, and [illegible] to the allies. At Sophia, however, this advice, and even the threats [illegible] Russia and France [illegible] the allies instead [illegible] their demands, now began to ask for guarantees that the reforms which the Porte was already [illegible] to promise would be honestly carried out, an attitude which it must be admitted the impotence of the Porte [illegible] at Kotchana, and the [illegible] of its prevarications [illegible] go far to justify.

[illegible] the third week in September it became known that the allies were making extensive military preparations, and on the last day of the month, on the totally unjustifiable pretext that Turkey was massing troops for manœuvres on a large scale in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, the Bulgarian Government issued orders for a general mobilisation. Greece and Servia followed suit immediately, and Montenegro also proceeded to [illegible] her forces.

Meantime the Powers, in the hope of averting war, had issued the fiat that, whatever might be the result of the hostilities should they break out, the territorial *status quo* would be maintained, but this announcement, which the allies recognised would, as far as they were concerned, be a mere *brutum fulmen*, fell quite unheeded, as did also the [illegible] representation addressed to them and to the Porte by Austria and Russia in the name of Europe.

At length Turkey realised the extremity of the peril, and offered to put in force the law of the vilayets, which had been drawn up by an international commission in 1880 but never carried into effect. The proposal was regarded by the allies as insincere, and when the Powers, seeing that the sole chance of a peaceful solution lay in their taking an active part in the scheme of reforms and so giving the guarantee required by the allies, made joint proposals (the 10th October) for that purpose to the Porte the invitation was declined. On the 8th October Montenegro had declared

war, but the negotiations still proceeded, and on the 13th Bulgaria, Greece, and Servia presented a joint demand for "radical reforms strictly and honestly applied." Two days afterwards Turkey broke off relations with Servia and Bulgaria, and on the 17th declared war on them, while Greece declared war on Turkey.

The course of the war is recorded in another part of this review, and it is sufficient to say here that within fifteen days the great fortress of Adrianople was isolated, and the Turkish army was endeavouring to rally on the lines of Chatalja, while in the other theatres of war the Servians had occupied Uskub, and the Greeks were threatening Salonica, which they actually entered on the 8th November. Had the Bulgarians pressed straight on it is possible that Constantinople itself might have fallen, but the effort of their first rush had left them unable to prepare for an immediate attack on Chatalja [illegible] to bring up supplies of all kinds, and to fill the gaps in the fighting line. They had also to consider the difficult political situation [illegible] be created by the occupation of the Turkish capital, as Russia had plainly intimated that she would not permit Constantinople to pass into any hands but her own. The Bulgarians therefore declined the Greek offer to land a large force on the Gulf of Xeros and to combine a sea and land attack to endeavour to seize the Turkish forts on the European side of the Dardanelles, which, if successful, must have resulted in the fall of Constantinople. In the city itself the position was judged to be more precarious than more recent knowledge has shown, and the greatest anxiety was felt lest a further successful advance of the Bulgarians should fill the city with a horde of [illegible] and desperate soldiery. The Turkish Government professed itself powerless to maintain order should it be compelled to withdraw across the Bosphorus, and to protect the foreign communities an array of ships of war were sent to the Bosphorus by the Powers and on the 18th November strong detachments of bluejackets were landed to guard the approaches to the European quarters, and remained there some ten days. At Chatalja, however, no fighting took place till the 17th November when the Bulgarians began a strong general assault, which developed into a general but unsuccessful attack.

The Turks, however, were now glad to ask for an armistice, and on the 20th the Bulgarians, who were no doubt disheartened by their failure the day before, and [illegible] the cholera [illegible] spread from the Turkish troops, agreed to a truce. The main obstacles [illegible] Adrianople, but it was eventually settled [illegible] the armistice was concluded on the [illegible] December. The Greek Government, however, declined to be a party to it and to continue the war with Turkey [illegible] the Turkish [illegible] Sea [illegible] to take advantage of it.

[illegible] the Powers had been engaged [illegible] how best [illegible] interests of peace [illegible], after some [illegible] the French Minister for Foreign Affairs [illegible] formula [illegible] necessity [illegible] maintenance of the territorial *status quo* as between the belligerents was dropped [illegible] collapse of the Turkish military power being realised. The need for M. Poincaré's efforts to secure harmony was soon exemplified by the situation created by the veto placed by Austria on Servia's claim to obtain a port on the Adriatic, the controversy on this point [illegible] which was further envenomed by the [illegible]. So strained did relations become that Austria was said to take military precautions scarcely distinguishable from mobilisation [illegible] which [illegible] Pan-Slavist circles in Russia, where movements of troops on a considerable scale were at once reported. The news that the Balkan Allies had accepted the Ottoman proposal that the Peace Delegates should meet in London did something to relieve the anxiety caused by the growing tension between Russia and Austria, which was again lessened by Sir E. Grey's scheme that the Ambassadors of the five Great Powers in London should concurrently discuss the various problems of European interest which the changes in the Balkans would bring forth.

The Peace Delegates met at St. James' Palace on the 16th December, and after some [illegible] Turkish objections—one being to the presence of the Greeks, as Greece was not a party to the armistice—[illegible] the terms of the Allies were [illegible] on the 23rd. They were, shortly, the cession of the whole of European Turkey up to and including the town of Adrianople, but excluding the west coast of the Dardanelles, and the surrender of Crete and the Ægean Islands.

On the 28th the Turkish counter proposals were produced, and once more showed that even the lessons of the Italian war had been unable to teach the Porte to recognise facts. It is, of course, true that in the last four weeks the military position of the Ottoman forces had vastly improved, but still not to such an extent as to warrant the expectation that the relief of Adrianople, and still less the reconquest of the occupied territories or the islands was within their power, and it is probable also that some hope was entertained in Stamboul that some development in the European situation might turn to their advantage, but few were prepared to find that, after Mr. Asquith's declaration "that the victors were not to be robbed of the fruits which cost them so dear," Turkey would formulate conditions which virtually declined to make any cession of territory to the allies, except in the case of Crete, the fate of which was to be left in the hands of the Powers. It is probable that in putting forward such terms as these Kiamil Pasha's Cabinet had been very largely influenced by the precariousness of its own position in consequence of the agitation got up against it by the Committee.

In reply, the allies stated that the Ottoman terms were unacceptable, and invited the Turkish delegates to refer again to the Porte for further instructions.

Prominent Men in 1912

It would be difficult to justify the heading of this section without repeating the contents of previous reports since that for 1908. The year did not bring into prominence a single new man of the first importance. Throughout the confusion which marked the evolution of the internal political situation, it is possible that many of the most important parts were played by men who were content to remain in the background. On the public stage the changes were simply rung on names which have been familiar since early in the revolutionary period. Said and Kiamil Pashas, the Grand Old Men of Turkish politics, the former of whom committed himself more completely than before to the Committee of Union and Progress, while the latter continued to be the chief hope of the various opposing groups and was regarded by them and by many moderate people outside party politics, especially towards the end of the year, as the one possible Grand Vizier who might redeem an almost hopeless situation; Talat Bey, the unscrupulous ex-telegraph official, turned Minister of the Interior, and organiser of victory for the Committee party at the general election of last spring; Javid Bey, the crypto-Jewish Croesus of the same party and the infant prodigy of Turkish finance; his inseparable ally, Hussein Jahid Bey, the most trenchant of Constantinople journalists; Mahmud Shevket Pasha, who continued to be Minister of War until the temporary collapse of the Committee in the summer, and whose Arab temperament was worked up to the highest pitch of nervous tension by the cares of office and the strain of political excitement, but who has continued to have great weight [illegible] now Grand Vizier; Nazim Pasha, the old and scholarly [illegible], pleasure-loving in his hours of ease, who became Minister of War and Commander-in-chief under the Anti-Committee Government, and came to a tragic end in the *coup d'État* of January 1913; Lutfi Fikri Bey, the sworn enemy of the Committee and, perhaps, the most effective Moslem in the ranks of what was formerly the Parliamentary Opposition; and the elusive ex-Colonel Sadik Bey, always supposed to be the inspiring genius of the anti-Committee organisation in the army, but hardly less elusive than before even when the organisation temporarily triumphed.

These and many others of lesser note have been described in greater detail in the previous reports above referred to. The various Cabinets formed during 1912 contained some other personages who had not appeared in previous Ministerial combinations, but the majority of these were of little more account than passing phantoms. The following may be mentioned as men who achieved some prominence as Ministers or otherwise, without attaining any special distinction, in the course of the year.

Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha became Grand Vizier in July. He is a man of about seventy years of age, has the rank of marshal and enjoys the honorific title of "Ghazi" (conqueror) in recognition of the part which he played in the Russo-Turkish war. He was for many years the Sultan's representative in Egypt under the old régime. He ceased to occupy that post soon after the revolution of 1908 and returned to Constantinople, where he enjoyed great personal consideration, but

played a conspicuous part in politics. He was, however, Vice President and later President of the Senate for several years, and was Grand Vizier. He is the father of Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha who has played a conspicuous part in political life since the change of régime, and who has been mentioned in previous reports.

Prince Said Halim Pasha, who has now become Minister of Foreign Affairs, entered the Cabinet of his namesake Said Pasha, as President of the Council of State in February 1912. A man of great personal capacity, he nevertheless counts for something as a Prince of the Khedivial family and a man of wealth. He is a son of that Halim Pasha who was the brother of the Khedives Ibrahim and Said. Said Pasha has always maintained close relations with Constantinople but he fell into disfavour with the late Sultan, and for several years ceased to reside in Constantinople even in summer. Since the revolution he has become a member of the Senate, and has been a prominent member of the Committee of which body he became Secretary General after the events of 1912. On the Egyptian side he is known to have transacted a good deal with the extreme Nationalists. His family owns some estates in Turkey and he is connected with the Khedivate.

Reshid Pasha, who came into prominence during the year as principal Turkish delegate at the London Peace Conference, has had a respectable career as a Turkish diplomat. For several years prior to October 1911 he was Ambassador, first in Rome and then in Vienna. He was at the latter post at a very critical time. Having been offered the portfolio of Foreign Affairs by Said Pasha just after the outbreak of the Tripoli-Italian war, he had accepted the post, and his appointment was actually gazetted. He withdrew his consent when the opportunity to do so offered, but he seems to have given such umbrage to Said Pasha that he was not reinstated in his post, and remained for over a year without employment. He is a man of good family and reputation, intelligent, very courteous and of great tact, but not remarkable for any great strength of character.

Ghazi Essad Pasha, now Ottoman Pasha was appointed Governor of the Lebanon in December. For some three years previously he had been Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but in an earlier period in his career he was for ten years resident at the Embassy in Rome. As Under Secretary he showed himself courageous and enterprising at the same time of very nervous temperament. He is however well-intentioned, and has the reputation of being thoroughly honest, besides which he is possessed of a good intelligence and some knowledge of affairs.

Said Bey, Kayemmekam, Uzun Köprü, succeeded Halil at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was the first Moslem to occupy the post for a long series of years, a fact due to the appointment having been made when a Christian, Gabriel Effendi, was Minister. Said Bey was for many years a Turkish delegate on the International Board of Health, and is considered a capable official. As a Moslem he may, perhaps, have a larger share in the confidence of Mr. Storrs than his immediate predecessors, who since the days of Nouri Pasha, late Ambassador in Paris, have not counted for a great deal.

The Ecumenical Greek Patriarch Joachim III, who died at a great age towards the end of November, was a forceful personality. A man of undistinguished foreign origin he rose twice to the position of Patriarch, and displayed considerable ability as an ecclesiastical statesman. He appealed greatly to the great mass of the laity of the Greek Church and though he was far from popular with many of the higher ecclesiastics his strength of his position was proved by the fact that his resignation, frequently tendered during his second term, was never accepted. He maintained good relations with successive Turkish Governments without truckling to them unduly, and he was believed to view with favour the movement towards a rapprochement between the Greek and Bulgarian churches.

Archbishop Anthimos of Philippopolis received a new appointment about the beginning of the year in the person of Mgr. Arsharouni, previously Archbishop of Brussa. He is too old an Archbishop to undertake what is perhaps the most difficult ecclesiastical mission in this country very effectively, but he is considered to adorn his church by an irreproachable character and a considerable amount of learning.

Finance

Financial affairs have been even more than usually difficult to follow in 1912 and this for two main reasons —

1. The large and uncontrolled expenditure of the War Department, and
2. That no official statistics of revenue and expenditure have been published based on the Finance Act in force during the year, while the public is also still in ignorance of the actual carry over from the financial year 1911-12.

Two Budgets were presented to the Chamber of Deputies prepared by Said Bey in November 1911 and March 1912 by David Effendi in the following autumn. Owing to the dissolutions of Parliament in January and August, the Finance Bills to which they were attached never received a second reading, as provided by the Constitution, the Finance Act of 1911 remained in force. But no estimates prepared on the basis of the 1911 Act have been published, and it is therefore impossible to give an official budget for 1912-13. As however, Said Bey's Finance Bill proposed little or no new taxation but sought rather to introduce a more actual system of estimating revenue and expenditure, the figures given in his budget are also those of David's budget which was framed on the new principles laid down by Said. Not without value are David's figures which, while the more recent as the financial year had been in progress for nine months when they were prepared, are as to revenue estimated to yield £T 37,000 and estimated receipts £T 29,738,000 leaving an estimated deficit of £T 1,051,000. As this was to be financed to the extent of £T 2,000,000 of extraordinary expenditure to be covered by loans, but as no regular loan has been contracted it is probable that the whole of the deficit was covered by a part of it. There was however, the fact to be remembered that the carry over had risen to £T 1,750,000, while the whole of the expenses of the Italian war had been met with no provision made in the budget. Apart from war expenditure, however, except for any reaction that it may have made on ordinary expenditure, the only extraordinary deficit which the Treasury would have to face at the end of the current financial year, i.e., on the 31st (13th) March, 1913, would be not far from £T 5,000,000 and may well exceed that sum.

What the war expenditure has been as a very difficult question to answer. In September the Minister of Finance is said to have put the whole of the expenses of the Italian war up to that time at £T 8,000,000 while the Balkan war was raging in February, according to Sir R. Crawford, it was £T 18,000,000 daily. Taking these two figures as a guide, the total war expenditure of Turkey from October 1911 to the 31st (13th) March 1913, would amount to roughly £T 23,000,000, so that the total debt on the 31st (14th) March 1913, would be somewhere about £T 29,000,000. This calculation is fairly well borne out by a statement made in London by Sir R. Crawford early in January when there seemed to be a prospect of peace being concluded that if only that date at the end of the war Turkey would have to borrow at least £T 23,000,000.

The revenue figures have been published down to the end of November, i.e., to the 13th December. A rush was sought to be exploited, a heavy falling off as compared with the corresponding period for the previous year although thanks to the enormous amount paid in military exemption tax by those remaining to go on active service viz., £T 900,000 as against £T 1,312,000 in the corresponding period for 1911, and also to the war taxes which yielded £T 778,870, the gross encashments are calculated to be only £T 4,000,000 below those of last year. The war taxes were imposed by a vote of the Chamber of the 10th July and were estimated to bring in £T 2,000,000 a year, which is fairly well borne out by the receipts for the five months, the 10th July to 13th December, accounting as above stated to £T 778,870. These taxes were seven in number, viz.

1 and 2. Surtax of 25 per cent on the new property tax and on the tenettus,
3. A tax of 3 per cent on official salaries,
4. An increase of £T 1 on the military exemption tax,
5. An increase of 10 paras per kilogramme in the price of salt, and
6. Surtax on the licence to manufacture spirits (raki).

The last two sources of revenue being among those ceded to the Public Debts only 75 per cent of the yield belongs to the Treasury.

To meet the heavy strain on its resources, involved by the Italian and Balkan wars the Turkish Treasury has, of course, been obliged to borrow, and as a foreign loan was impossible during the continuance of the war, it has been driven to obtain temporary advances at relatively high rates of interest from various sources. Rather more than £T 7,750,000 was received in cash by these transactions of which a list is as follows:

Date of Contract	Acceptor.	Amount.	Rate of Interest.	Rate of Commission.	Date of Maturity	Guarantee, &c.
		1912.—Advances against Treasury Bonds.				
*Feb. 24	National Bank of Turkey and Bank of Salonica	£T 1,500,000 taken firm at 98½	Per Cent 6½	Per Cent ½ per annum	Mar. 13, 1913	Excess of customs dues (3 per cent.) of Smyrna, Beirut, Salonica, Bussa, and Adrianople. To be paid off out of first foreign loan.
*May 2	Imperial Ottoman Bank	£T 1,500,000 at par	6½	½ per annum and ¼ for renewal	Nov. 16, 1912 and renewed to Apr. 16, 1913	Excess of tithes, agiums, and other various revenues collected by the Public Debt Administration.
*June 24	" "	4,250,000 at par	7	½ per annum	Dec. 29, 1912 extended to Apr. 16, 1913	Ditto
*Aug. 27	" "	1,250,000 at par	7	½ per annum	Sept. 5, 1913	Excess of tobacco tithes and customs receipts of Bagdad, Asiatic Smyrna and Prevesa.
		£T 6,540,000				
Dec. [?]	Issues by Treasury	£T 3,000,000	6	½ paid to banks and other intermediaries	In three years	War taxes
		1912.—Other Advances.				
July	Ottoman Bank and Anatolia Bank	£T 300,000 53,000	Per cent 7 or 2 per cent above official rate of Reichsbank	Per cent ½	Mar. 3, 1913 Feb. 28, 1913	Securities belong to ex Sultan
May 31	Régie des Tabacs	200,000	6			Government's share in profits of Régie
Dec.	Council of Public Debt	300,000	7			1. Italian indemnity 2. Next foreign loan 3. Government's share in customs surplus after March 1, 1913
Feb.	Imperial Ottoman Bank	1,480,000	6½			Statutory advance, which has no special guarantee
		£T 2,333,000 5,544,000				
		£T 7,877,000				

* These four advances, amounting in all to £T 5,540,000 are to be repaid out of and are a first charge on a loan of £T 10,000,000 4 per cent. interest with 4 per cent. sinking fund, arranged for the issue of which belongs to the Imperial Ottoman Bank. One-quarter of the loan is to be employed for the construction of the Samsun-Sivas Railway.

while in addition, at the end of the year, the experiment was tried of an internal loan by means of an issue of internal 6 per cent. Treasury bonds, to the total amount of £T 3,000,000, redeemable in three years and secured on the war taxes. The Agricultural Bank, a not very flourishing State institution, had to take up £T 300,000 of the bonds, but it remains to be seen how the issue will be taken up by the public.

Various other schemes to raise money were proposed at different times, but the only proposals deserving notice were the following. In October the Public Debt was asked to invest its reserve funds of £T 2,000,000 in Treasury bonds, and immediately after the Ottoman Bank was approached with a suggestion for a loan of £T 15,000,000, to be secured on the surplus of the tithes collected by the Public Debt and on the receipts of certain custom houses. Towards the end of the month the National Bank was asked for an advance of £T 2,500,000, and almost simultaneously the 4 per cent. increase of the customs duties was mooted. The Russian Government at once signified its refusal, while His Majesty's Government and the French Government thought that to agree to the proposal would not be consonant with the duties of a neutral. M. Pichon was in favour of addressing a joint protest to the Porte against the contemplated surtax, but out of deference to the view of His Majesty's Government that a joint protest would be needlessly offensive to the Turkish Cabinet, the protest was eventually made separately. A little later His Majesty's Government qualified their position somewhat in this matter by explaining to Tevfik Pasha that if, as they

understood, the intention was to impose the surtax as a temporary measure, they would take no steps to enforce their protest provided that no other Powers did so.

Towards the close of the year, when it became clear that practically the whole of her European provinces were lost to Turkey, a question of very great interest was raised, namely, whether a certain proportion of the debt of Turkey should not be laid on the allied States as a charge in respect of the territories they would acquire. The question was, in principle, decided in the affirmative, and Sir R. Crawford was deputed to proceed to London, on behalf of the Turkish Government, to express its views on this matter and to examine the possibilities of raising a loan on the termination of the war.

As is natural, the prolonged war had its effects on commercial and financial conditions, and in October and November some of the smaller houses which were embarrassed, or pretended to be so, endeavoured to induce the Government to proclaim a moratorium, but on the advice of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce the proposal was negatived. In this connection it is worth noting that when the financial outlook was most discouraging, the stock of gold held by the banks was always adequate, and that throughout the war the Ottoman Government has never suggested repudiating any engagement or tampering with the currency. Turkish 4 per cent. Unified, which was quoted in Paris at 90·30, dropped at the end of October to 78·35 but by the end of December stood at 85·05.

Army.

From a military point of view the year under review has been a memorable and unfortunate one for Turkey. Marked as it has been by two external wars, the perennial revolt in Albania, and internal unrest, culminating in a change of Government which was brought about by the action of the army, there is little to record of technical interest, or of that progress towards efficiency which it was confidently expected would result from the reorganisation of the army initiated in 1911, and the scheme of which was dealt with in some detail in last year's report.

When the year opened the Italian war was in progress. Though from its nature it presented very few features of military interest, and left the Turkish army (except for a handful of officers and a few thousand men who were directly engaged in the opposition of the Arabs in North Africa) practically untouched, its effects were afterwards seen to have been far-reaching, and to have ultimately proved to be some of the main causes of the Turkish *débâcle* later in the year.

Owing to her lack of sea power Turkey's participation in the Tripolitaine war was practically confined to measures to rush the Italian blockade of the littoral with a view to supplying her belligerents with guns, rifles and ammunition. These attempts usually failed, the ships carrying the stuff either falling a prey to the hands of the Italians or jettisoning their cargoes, and, as far as one is aware, no successful result of any importance was achieved.

One of the causes by which Italy could exercise pressure upon Turkey with a view to the necessity of invading the mainland was the occupation of some or all of the Turkish islands, which, owing to that same want of sea power, she was powerless to defend. Small garrisons were maintained only on the larger islands—Rhodes, Chios, and Mytilene—and were practically isolated. The seizure of Stampalia on the 23rd April was the prelude to the systematic occupation by the Italians of the Southern Sporades, which commenced early in May, and by the 20th of that month fifteen islands had passed temporarily from Turkish rule. The only operations of military interest in these seizures was provided in the case of Rhodes, where a force under General Ameglio, conveyed from Adalia in seven transports and escorted by eight warships, landed on the 4th May and occupied the town. The Turkish garrison, which only consisted of one nizam battalion, with some reservists and six guns—about 1,500 in all—retreated inland, but were surrounded and forced to surrender on the 16th May, as the result of a very successful combined operation excellently conceived and well carried out by the Italians. Beyond the seizure of these islands the Italians made no actual attempt on the integrity of the Empire in Europe or Asia. The sinking of a Turkish gunboat in Beirut harbour early in the year and various bombardments on the coast of the Red Sea had little apparent effect beyond exasperating the Turks, and strengthening their determination to resist Italy's claims and to continue the war.

But the naval operations in the Red Sea had an unfavourable effect on Turkey's position in the Yemen by encouraging Seyyid Idriss, who was still in rebellion in Assyr. Had it not been for the Italian war Seyyid Idriss would probably have been

[illegible] at this point, for an impression existed and still exists that war preparations on the part of Turkey were in some degree responsible for the strange situation which was finally reached early in October, and from which no issue other than war was possible. As a matter of fact no such preparations were made, and the dismission of the Anatolian reservists in Europe continued right up [illegible] September. On the 1st October, the very day on which the general mobilization was ordered, [illegible] were embarking at [illegible] battalions [illegible] all this [illegible] He obstinately refused to believe that [illegible] Balkan States could make war on [illegible] or that there was a prospect [illegible] September [illegible] for a period of six weeks [illegible] Bulgarians [illegible] regarded [illegible] But [illegible] Turkish Minister of Foreign [illegible] to be [illegible] the Balkan States [illegible] It was [illegible] battalions were left [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the Minister of War.

[illegible] when the mobilization was ordered, the Turkish forces in [illegible] amount to more than 150,000 men. These were scattered over [illegible] which [illegible] naturally divides itself [illegible] (for [illegible] and a western (Macedonian and Albanian) theatre of operations. [illegible] country was still nominally at war with Italy, so that troops could

not be transported by sea direct from Anatolia to the western theatre and all reinforcements from Asia for both theatres had to pass through Constantinople or some ports [illegible] Dardanelles. This was one of the difficulties of the mobilization which had not been foreseen. In the eastern theatre the mobilization proceeded quite as rapidly as could have been expected, at least as regards the numbers of men sent through. By the 14th October [illegible] had passed through Constantinople, and about 90,000 had arrived at [illegible] Rodosto. These, in addition to the local [illegible] army in process of concentration but much scattered, of 150,000 with some 70,000 [illegible] garrison [illegible] and a detached force of 20,000 at [illegible] In the western theatre [illegible] Up to the moment war was declared practically no Asiatic troops had been forwarded there, and it had to depend on its own resources [illegible] the declaration of war railway communication was interrupted and the western theatre was isolated. Excluding the garrisons of Scutari and [illegible] a force [illegible] sanjak of Novi Bazar area [illegible] occupied by the [illegible] army of about 120,000 divided between Uskub and Monastir, and [illegible] the Struma valley.

[illegible] which was declared on the 17th October [illegible] a [illegible] sketch of the [illegible] western theatre [illegible] battle at Kumanovo [illegible] which [illegible] army of the Vardar was defeated with a loss of sixty [illegible] Another Servian army [illegible] the sanjak, where it joined hands with the [illegible]

[illegible]

of War [illegible] The [illegible] army had already [illegible] the covering troops [illegible] of Adrianople, and was continuing [illegible] of that fortress [illegible] third armies, which had crossed the [illegible] the east of the Tunja, were advancing [illegible] the [illegible] in several columns between Adrianople and Kirk Kilisse [illegible] of the Turkish [illegible] army [illegible] was, under the circumstances, a great [illegible] the Turks paid [illegible] Early on the 22nd the [illegible] began, [illegible] nature of a wheel to the right pivoting on Kirk Kilisse, the idea being to attack the Bulgarians in front with the three army corps on the left and

[illegible] the IIIrd Army Corps [illegible] further west [illegible] the IVth Army Corps, [illegible] on its right the IIIrd Army Corps was wandering about between [illegible] without meeting any enemy, and without [illegible] Panic [illegible] during the night [illegible] occurred among the troops [illegible] the army corps [illegible] the IIIrd Army Corps [illegible] completely abandoned. [illegible] the ability of its commanders to control [illegible] its movements [illegible] were thus [illegible] apparent. [illegible] It was [illegible] later [illegible] failed to profit by [illegible] the IIIrd Army Corps [illegible] the 29th [illegible] the 23rd [illegible] the IIIrd Army [illegible] On the 29th [illegible] Turks, [illegible] November the [illegible] Nazim Pasha [illegible] troops [illegible] starved [illegible] press [illegible] the 7th November, and [illegible] the 12th. During the [illegible] troops [illegible] the 17th November the Bulgarians commenced [illegible] was [illegible] the 17th and [illegible] unsuccessful, [illegible] suspension of hostilities were opened [illegible] concluded on the 3rd December, the independent [illegible] detachment [illegible] Yaver Pasha had surrendered, near Dedeagatch, to a Bulgarian force [illegible] General Kovacheff.

[illegible] west of the Chatalja lines the whole of Turkey in Europe was in the possession of the allies, except the Gallipoli [illegible] and the fortresses of Adrianople, Yanina, and Scutari, which were gallantly holding out. From the [illegible] to the end of the year there is no event of military interest to record [illegible] war still continues with Greece, who was not a party to the armistice. The Turks were active in strengthening their positions at Chatalja, and in bringing over fresh troops from Asia.

Navy

It may be said that the Turkish navy has played a purely negative part in the wars of 1912, while, owing to these wars, there was little alteration or improvement

[illegible] There have [illegible] general in [illegible] the [illegible] impossible, the stores [illegible] the War Office, which was [illegible] the fleet was [illegible] against the enemy.

[illegible] war [illegible] the Turkish navy was [illegible] and there was perhaps [illegible] The fleet never [illegible] of those ports.

[illegible] the Turkish fleet was on paper [illegible] the Greek [illegible] fire from the ships [illegible] the Black Sea [illegible] the Greek fleet [illegible] determined way [illegible] Constantinople [illegible] sinking [illegible] the Black Sea [illegible] of the war.

[illegible] of British naval officers [illegible] reorganisation of the Turkish navy [illegible] Rear-Admiral [illegible] C.B. [illegible] April [illegible] described above [illegible] task a difficult one.

[illegible] a British [illegible] Naval College at Halki. The work [illegible] the college building has been in use as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

The great difficulty [illegible] advisers and reformers have to [illegible] remains as ever [illegible] poor quality of the officers. Among the seniors [illegible] in any capacity [illegible] the juniors there is [illegible] well, but many who are useless [illegible] their position.

A scheme has been drawn up for the provision of continuous service petty officers and of a class of engine-room artificers, but is held up awaiting the sanction of Parliament.

The docks and [illegible] in the Golden Horn are just keeping [illegible] a few more years of [illegible] will render them useless. This would be unfortunate, because besides serving the Turkish fleet for [illegible] are of great use to the merchant shipping which frequents the port, and [illegible] source of revenue to the Government instead of an expense.

A torpedo range is under construction at Kener Baghche by a local contractor, and the fittings will be supplied by a German firm.

The question of a new arsenal in the Gulf of Ismid, with a floating dock for large ships, has been very much discussed by people who were little qualified to discuss it, but no decision seems to have been taken. A new arsenal is a necessity in Turkey as

to keep it now, but the installation and the management of the necessary works and plant should be put in the hands of a ready competent firm for a long period of years, with the view of equipping and working it on sound and business principles, and training the Turks gradually to take charge of it themselves.

Though the war has prevented fleet training or even gunnery practice the fleet has been kept in constant readiness, with steam up. The engines and boilers are therefore in need of thorough overhaul and repair.

In spite of the inactivity and misuse of the fleet it remains the best part of the Turkish navy. Ships are well kept and their internal organisation is creditable—a result chiefly due to the short periods of sea training under British officers.

TURKEY IN EUROPE

Albania

A review of events in Albania during the year 1912 forming, as it does, what may prove the last chapter in the history of an Ottoman Albania, is interesting, not only as an illustration of the kind of unity and organisation of which Albania and Albanians would seem to be capable, but also as a final criticism passed on Young Turkish statesmanship, and on the levelling methods of the Committee of Union and Progress.

The Ilinden rising, however exceptional, in that its conspicuous success was due to the fact that it was organised by men of far greater ability than were the leaders of former risings, by men who succeeded in effecting a combination with the Balkan States opposed to the Committee Cabinet at Constantinople which paralysed the action of the Government and in the end decisively secured its fall.

The causes of the rising are not far to seek. The ruthless policy of centralisation inaugurated by the Committee had from the first created an antipathy between the Albanian methods of Abdul Hamid with regard to Albania and those of the Young Turks since the Constitution. Albanian discontent had manifested itself in numerous but thoroughly local outbreaks during 1912, however, the Government succeeded in the early months of the year in localising, and finally quelling, the disturbances. The majority thus secured, so strongly pro-Turk, that the Committee were determined not to allow any paper or press to disturb the progress of their Turkification programme, and that if their fall was to be accomplished it should be by force of arms alone. At the same time the embarrassments caused to the Government by the Italian war, coupled with the active encouragement of Greek and Austrian agents provided the leaders of the movement with an excellent opportunity and a ready-made account must also be taken of the mixed feelings of jealousy and scorn aroused among the Moslem Albanians by the successes of their Christian fellow-countrymen in the provinces.

The Issues in the Kossovo Vilayet

To understand the rather complicated sequence of the events which marked the Albanian insurrection of 1912, it is first necessary to differentiate between the rising of the Moslems in the Kossovo vilayet which was practically brought to a successful conclusion by the first week in August and the risings of the Catholic and Orthodox tribes of West and South Albania, which was comparatively independent of and subsequent to, the main insurrection of the Kossovo vilayet, and which continued up to the close of the Balkan war.

It will be more convenient first to treat the rising in the Kossovo vilayet and the events which marked it, and afterwards particularly the nature and meaning of the military desertions at Monastir, the character of the leaders eventually conceded, and the differences between the various Albanian leaders and the sections of Albania upon which they represent.

The actual events of the Kossovo rising may be dealt with shortly. Indications of unrest had been reported by His Majesty's consuls as early as February, but the rising proper can only be said to have begun early in May. The whole insurrection may, to some extent, be divided into three periods, from the 3rd to the 15th May, from the 22nd May to the 7th June, and from the 21st June to the 19th August. The first two risings were met by the Government with a mixture of force and conciliation, which succeeded on each occasion in producing a temporary lull, on the last occasion however when the insurgents were joined by the military malcontents, the

Government appeared completely paralysed, and the insurgents were triumphant all along the line.

The first period, therefore, as has been said began about the 3rd May, when 2,000 to 3,000 Albanians gathered round Diakova and opened fire on the town. The agitation soon spread to Ipek, and attacks on bodies of Government troops followed each other at Istek, Gussinje, and Vierza. The Minister of the Interior who was at this time undertaking a tour in the affected provinces (a subject dealt with in a subsequent paragraph of this report), attempted to arrange a settlement, and was so far successful as to secure a momentary cessation of trouble, and to be able on his return towards the end of the month to give a most optimistic account of the general state of Albania as he left it.

At the moment, however, when Hadji Adil Bey was giving in Constantinople these glowing accounts of Albanian tranquillity, the effervescence was again beginning to manifest itself, and by the 22nd May, the second period of the rising had begun and the troubles threatened to spread beyond the Uskub-Mitrovitza line. On the 3rd June a serious attack was made on Ipek, which was only repulsed by the 3rd division being turned up from Diakova to the relief of the town. A somewhat desperate attempt to gain time was then made by the dismissal of the unpopular mutessarif of Ipek and the substitution in his place of a less violent partisan of the Committee's policy. This conciliatory measure did, indeed, produce the semblance of a lull, and an officially claimed Government victory in the Ipek-Diakova district was followed by an announcement in the Constantinople press that order had for the second time been restored in Albania.

The Monastir Desertions

It was, however only thirteen days after this announcement that the third and final stage of the rising was inaugurated by the Monastir desertions. Already, on the 29th May the troops at Perisovitch had refused to march against the Albanians and some isolated desertions had occurred. On the 22nd June, however, a number of officers and men of the 49th regiment at Monastir, under the leadership of a certain Fayzar Bey, deserted and made for Cocoma, where a meeting appears to have been arranged. A week later further desertions were reported, and by the 30th June it appears that 22 officers and about 300 soldiers had actually deserted, while grave doubts were entertained as to the loyalty of the remaining troops.

Meanwhile at Constantinople the moral effect of this military and anti-Committee rising at Monastir, where the 1908 revolution had originated, was of course tremendous, and it was said that 80 per cent. of the officers were disaffected. A special meeting of the Chamber was hastily summoned, and a bill introducing the penalty for the interference in politics of military persons was hurried through the House.

Meanwhile a striking manifesto had been published by the deserters, proclaiming their loyalty to the Khalif and to the Constitution, their unalterable hostility to the Committee and to the Young Turk party generally.

At this stage of our narrative it is not necessary to enter far into the causes which led to the military desertions. These can be explained as merely the refusal of the officers and men of Albanian nationality to march against their compatriots, and the sympathy with which this refusal was viewed by their non-Albanian comrades in the army. It was, however, soon apparent that the desertions had a wider and more concrete basis, and that they were carried out in connection with the Hifs-e-Vatan, or "Patriotic Party," an anti-Committee military league whose nature was as mysterious as it was menacing. The extent to which this league had already pushed its propaganda was shown by an almost simultaneous outbreak in Abdullah Pasha's army corps at Smyrna, and it was rumoured that the leaders of the movement had been in negotiation with the Bulgarian Macedonian organisation under Milan Matoff.

Be that as it may the Government became immediately convinced that they had now to deal with no mere local desertions of a few Albanian malcontent officers, and their recognition of the seriousness of their position, of their inability to place any confidence in the troops still at their disposal seems to have inspired them with a species of paralysis. The attack on Ipek that they did attempt was doomed to failure. After feverish and apparently meaningless movements of troops in and out of Prizrend, an unsuccessful attack was attempted on Boiten, the native village of Issa Boletinatz. The next day the 4th July, four battalions were surrounded near Diakova, and only extricated with the greatest difficulty.

By this time the whole of the sandjaks of Ipek Prizrend and Prishtina were in revolt. Prishtina was captured by the insurgents on the 23rd July, and on the next day the Committee realised that their last throw was at hand. In Constantinople the Committee realised that their hours were numbered after the news of the loss of Adrianople reached the centre of the agitation. A commission of enquiry and negotiation was rushed up to Prishtina under Marshal Lorenz Pasha and Ali Ihsan Bey, with somewhat unscrupulous instructions made a bid for the support of the military malcontents by sacrificing Mahmud Shevket Pasha who was forced to resign from the Ministry of War. A resignation, the effect of which was enhanced by a prefatory press campaign, engineered by the Cabinet themselves, and pointing to the personal unpopularity of Mahmud Shevket as the one responsible for the troubles, by using the same methods of suggestion in the press, and even by fabricating a proclamation purporting to have been issued by Ismail Kemal they then represented the Albanian movement as a distinctly separatist one in the hopes of detaching from it all who still retained their loyalty to the Khalifate. It has been suggested even, and with some probability, that the Bernstein incident, which occurred in August, had, in fact, been planned by the Committee at this period, as another item in this policy of diverting attention from the main issue, and that the delay in its execution was merely due to some hitch in the preparations.

The end, however, was not far distant unless it could be averted. The commission held its first meeting at Prishtina on the 29th July, and on the next day, eight days after the ineffectual overthrow of Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the Said Cabinet fell, to be succeeded by that of Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha among whose Ministers figured the important personality of Ismail Pasha.

A general and vague acceptance of the Albanian demands was granted, and the commissioners at Prishtina instructed to discuss the details. It was some time, however, before acceptance became generally known, and in consequence of the delay in the negotiations the insurgents began to pour into Uskub, some of them proceeding as far as Kuprili so as even to threaten a descent on Salonica. By the second week in August they appear, however, to have satisfied themselves of the Government's sincerity, and by the 19th August the rising in the Kossovo vilayet may be said to have ceased.

The Risings in Western and Southern Albania

Before dealing with the concessions granted by the Ottoman Government subsequent to the successful rising of the Moslems in the Kossovo vilayet, it will be well to trace the circumstances of the independent risings of the Catholic and Orthodox tribes in Western and Southern Albania, centred at Scutari and Elbasan.

Considerable agitation was caused in the districts by an attempt on the part of several officials to raise a force of gendarmerie from among the tribesmen and so enable them to carry arms every day. More serious resistance was met with in the first weeks of June, when the Government unwisely attempted to prevent the tribesmen from bringing their sheep to their summer pastures.

The news of the success of the insurgents of the other vilayets also acted as an incentive, and by the 21st June the Malissors, who were joined by the Mirdites, succeeded in annihilating a Turkish division on the Mat River. The month of July was marked by several isolated attacks on Turkish posts, and an organised rising on San Giovanni di Medua early in August. The insurgents captured Alessio, the town of Scutari, and after a few weeks' delay, secured by the intervention of the Catholic archbishop on the arrival of the Turkish commission of enquiry, an attack was opened on the town while at the same time a violent assault was made on Tuzi. Further attempts at negotiation were then made by the commission, but the growing menace of the Balkan war necessitated a suspension of the activities both of the commission and the insurgents.

The Albanian Demands

As a result of the Albanian insurrections of 1912 three different sets of demands were put forward.

The first set, which was drawn up by the insurgent Moslems of the Kossovo vilayet, is known as the Prishtina programme, contained fourteen articles. These dealt with the recognition of customary law, regional military service, the right to carry arms, the principle that local officials should have a knowledge of Albanian customs and of the Albanian language, and that Albanian should be taught in the

schools. An interesting item was the demand for the impeachment of the Hakki and Said Pasha Cabinets.

The second programme, that of the Southern Albanians, occupied fifteen articles, and, while it embraced all the matters of practical value in the Prishtina programme, contained demands which were considerably more far-reaching as to the question of centralisation and the recognition of Albania as a national and geographical entity.

A third enumeration of demands formulated by the Ghieg Albanians, and circulated in Scutari, went even further, and stipulated for an Albanian National Assembly independent of the Constantinople Parliament, and controlling its own finance and its own territorial force. Geographically even, Albania was defined as comprising in principle the four vilayets, i.e., Monastir, Kossovo, Janina, and Scutari.

A comparison of these three sets of demands shows, indeed, considerable unity in the various sections of Albanian nationalists, represented by the strongly anti-Committee party, the reactionary or Hamidian party, and the party of decentralisation. There was throughout all of them the common desire to revert to the old Hamidian régime of dealing with the great difference that this system was now to have formal and legal recognition on national and progressive lines. A common principle is that the recognition of Albanian nationalism is to be shown through the establishment of Albanian schools, the use of the Albanian language, the recognition of local customs, and the practice of regional military service.

If however the unanimity of purpose shown in the three sets of demands is illustrative of a real unity in Albanian nationalism, the divergences which exist between them are equally indicative of the different interpretations put upon the meaning of this nationalism.

The Christians of the south and west, prompted by foreign suggestion, wished to give to the idea of Albanian decentralisation its most extreme political and geographical interpretation. The Moslems of the Kossovo vilayet were, however, from the first to have been prepared to accept a much less wide interpretation of their demands. The Government, however, were not slow to take advantage of this cleavage, and the effect of the Berchtold proposals came to an end there. The consideration that any concessions they might wring from the Government might have to be extended to other Christian races was one which would have strongly impressed the Kossovo Moslems, and this consideration was enhanced by the knowledge that extreme demands would have a disintegrating effect on other objectives and that the whole structure of the Khalifate to which they still remained loyal, would thus be endangered. The Government was able by a skilful manipulation of this argument to satisfy the Prishtina demands with as little cost to themselves as possible. While admitting the demands in principle, they so worded their reply in detail as to make the value of the concessions recorded largely upon the method of their application. Moreover, by their published acceptance of the demands in principle, they had secured the dispersal of the Kossovo insurgents, and the continuance from the second Scutari was a less vital danger.

Had it not been, therefore, for the fact that the events of 1912 in Albania had much to facilitate the outbreak of the Balkan war, and thus to obscure the radical political changes that were accomplished, it is probable that the year 1913 would have found Albania all the better off than in former years, in spite of the brilliant success of the insurrection and the apparently complete acquiescence of the Government to the insurgents' demands.

Macedonia

The events in Macedonia for the year 1912 can be dealt with in a comparatively concise form. During the greater part of the year they yield in importance to the risings in Albania, and at the end they are eclipsed by the outbreak of the Balkan war. There is the usual record of bomb outrages, but their number is not seriously in excess of those of previous years, and, with the notable exception of the Kochani massacre, there were no incidents of supreme importance. It should be noted, however, that the number of crimes increased rather than diminished after the fall of the Committee Cabinet, and this fact can only be explained on the ground that Bulgarian activity in Macedonia was aided and abetted by the Committee extremists.

At first, indeed, it seemed as though there would be a decrease in the number of crimes committed, and this may have been owing to the effect of the Ilinden massacres of the previous year and the diversions caused by the approaching elections

and the tour of the Minister of the Interior. In the first three months, nevertheless, two serious bomb explosions occurred, and by the end of June sixteen important outrages had been reported. In July there were six further dynamite outrages, and on the 1st August came the news of the Kochana massacre. Six further explosions on the railway, probably engineered by Committee agents, were reported in August, and seven in September, only one of which resulted in any serious loss of life. The action of the Turkish authorities, in suppressing disturbances after these various outrages, was, with the exception of the Kochana incident, prompt and effective.

Brigandage likewise increased during the summer months, and the following summary will show that the number of murders in the end give a total of something more than those reported in 1911.

SUMMARY.

Persons killed—	
Bulgarians	244
Moslems	116
Greeks	49
Serbs	26
Vlachs	11
Soldiers and gendarmes	79
Murders committed—	
by brigands	155
„ Moslems	28
„ Greeks	18
„ unknown agencies	91

COMPARATIVE TOTALS.

Year	Murders	By Moslems.	By Bulgarians
1907	1,768	521	191
908	1,089	198	122
1911	435	70	125
1912	513	28	115

The Kochana Incident.

On the morning of the 1st August two bombs exploded in the bazaars at Kochana, killing eight Bulgarians, four Moslems, and two Israelites. The explosion was followed by a massacre of Bulgarians, accompanied by much looting, which the Turkish authorities apparently made no attempt to restrain. It was remarked that many of the Moslem population had been armed with rifles, and that the massacre was allowed to continue over three hours after the military authorities intervened. About forty Bulgarians were killed and 120 seriously wounded. Representations were immediately made to the Sublime Porte by the Bulgarian Minister, and a commission of enquiry was at once set to investigate the circumstances of the massacre. Several arrests were made, but no very satisfactory light was thrown on the instigators of the explosion or on the persons responsible for the subsequent massacre. It is therefore, still doubtful whether the Bulgarian organisation or the Committee extremists were more to blame, but the activity of the latter, in hampering the course of the investigations in every possible way, would seem to show that they were not entirely innocent.

The subsequent developments of this incident need not be treated in this paragraph, since they have been dealt with under the heading of the Balkan War.

The Tour of the Minister of the Interior.

Some notice should here be given to the tour undertaken by Hadji Adil Bey, Minister of the Interior, in the provinces of European Turkey. At the time considerable importance was attached to this journey, and some credence was given to the Government's assurance that the tour constituted a conscientious commission of enquiry and reform. From its results, however, it would appear that the undertaking was little more than a leading feature in the Committee's electioneering propaganda.

His Excellency, who was accompanied by delegates from the chief departments and the gendarmerie, as also by Mr. Graves, adviser to the Ministry of Finance, left

Constantinople on the 16th February, and travelled through Salonica, Kuprulu, Prishtina, Mitrovitza, Ipek, Diakova, and Scutari. The reception accorded him was not very favourable, and he was twice actually fired on. Large sums were granted for the construction of schools and mosques, and some valuable works appear to have been inaugurated in the way of roads and improved communications.

That Hadji Adil Bey failed entirely to grasp the meaning of the Albanian question, or to see beyond his immediate aim of securing a Committee majority in the elections, is clear from his clumsy negotiation with the Malissori and his tactless treatment of Prenk Bib Doda Pasha, whom it was in the Government's interest to conciliate.

His return was somewhat delayed by the troubles which had already broken out in Albania, and it was not till the 3rd June that he reached Constantinople, where he spoke with the utmost confidence and optimism of the results secured by his mission.

CRETE.

At the beginning of 1912 the effervescence in Crete showed no signs of subsiding. An element of exceptional danger was added by the determination of the Cretans to send deputies to the opening of the Greek Chamber in Athens. After the general elections in the spring M. Venizelos spoke most seriously to His Majesty's Minister at Athens, and earnestly begged that some solution of the Cretan question should be found. His Excellency stated that he had reason to believe that the Ottoman Government would not be unconciliatory. Instructions were accordingly received at His Majesty's Embassy that the Porte should be sounded as to their views on the revival of the High Commissionership or some other settlement of the question. It transpired that M. Venizelos was labouring under an absolute misapprehension of the views of the Ottoman Government. Mortified by the failure of the Italian war and fearful of certain loss of the African provinces, they refused to make the smallest concession to a power which they believed Turkey was easily able to defeat. Another factor in this uncompromising attitude was the fact that the elections were still pending. The Minister for Foreign Affairs even declared that the Ottoman Government would regard the entry of Cretan deputies into the Greek Chamber as a *casus belli*. In these perplexing circumstances the protecting Powers decided that Austria-Hungary should be invited to join them in endeavouring to discover some solution. These Powers, however declined to take any part whatever in Cretan affairs.

Reoccupation began to be seriously considered, but before proceeding to this extreme step it was decided that a naval demonstration should be made, and a warning against sending deputies to Athens should be addressed to the Cretan executive. The senior British naval officer was also instructed to arrest as many deputies as might have ostentatiously embarked *en bloc*. In fact, twenty were arrested, but as the opening of the Greek Chamber was postponed they were released after a few days. In the meantime M. Venizelos had promised the representatives of the protecting Powers at Athens that under no circumstances would the entry of Cretan deputies into the Chamber be permitted, though he declined to divert on the risk which this line of policy involved for his Government and even for the dynasty. The date of the opening was finally fixed for the 1st June, and the Cretan deputies had before that date all arrived in Athens. M. Venizelos was, however, able to keep his word. The approaches to the Chamber were guarded by troops, the deputies advanced and there was a scuffle. A deputation was received by the Government in the building of the Chamber, the Cretan deputies then withdrew. In the Chamber the proceedings were purely formal, and the House was adjourned.

In September the discussions of the revival of the High Commissioner regime were again begun. The King of Greece intimated that he would very much like to see this appointment given to his son, Prince Andrew. These discussions dragged on till the outbreak of war between Turkey and Greece in October completely altered the question. M. Venizelos informed the representatives of the protecting Powers at Athens that it was now no longer possible to exclude Cretan deputies from the Chamber. At the same time his Excellency promised that the international status of the island should be respected—a promise which it was somewhat difficult to reconcile with the appointment of a Greek Governor, M. Dragoumis, on the 26th October. Finally, satisfactory assurances were given respecting the protection of the Mussulman population, a point which had caused the protecting Powers some preoccupation. The promise was well carried out, and for the rest of the year the protecting Powers dissociated themselves from Cretan affairs, though a British ship remained in Cretan waters.

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The year did not pass without the usual crop of murders of Mussulmans. There [illegible] the last four months of the year [illegible] Mussulman [illegible] that a considerable [illegible] of [illegible] took place. After the month of April these outrages ceased, except for an isolated case in September.

SAMOS

The effervescence produced in the Ægean Islands by the Italian war and the capture of some of them by the Italian forces was also felt in the autonomous island of Samos. The Prince Kopass, whose rule had been one of exceptional severity, was exceedingly unpopular, and on the 22[illegible] March a successful attempt was made on his life. The motive of the assassination appears to have been a desire for revenge on the part of some smugglers, whose activities had been interfered with by the strict surveillance instituted by the Prince. There was nothing to show that M. Sofoulis, the Samian "patriot" and arch-enemy of the Prince, then at Athens, had any connection with the murder. Beghens Bey was appointed successor.

In May the [illegible] petitioned the representatives of the protecting Powers at Constantinople against the presence of Turkish troops on the island. The Ottoman Government promised that if the troops were withdrawn they would [illegible] the [illegible], was allowed to drop.

Beghens Bey made a real attempt to conciliate the Samians, and an amnesty was granted to all political offenders except M. Sofoulis. This amnesty, which threatened to flood the island with agitators, was not approved by the representatives of the protecting Powers. But all attempts at conciliation were foredoomed to [illegible] and in August His Majesty's consul-general at Canea heard that a filibustering expedition was about to start from Crete to assist the Samians in their desire for union with Greece. Mr. Wratislaw [illegible] do all in his power to prevent the departure of the expedition. His action was approved by His Majesty's Government, and the arrival of His Majesty's ship "Medea" [illegible] the [illegible] of the agitators. After the abandonment of the expedition the "Medea" proceeded to Samos, to prevent, if possible, the landing of individuals or small parties who proclaimed their intention of going to Samos. [illegible] commander was instructed not to [illegible], but only to prevent the landing of Cretans or other sympathisers from [illegible]. On arrival at Samos the commander discovered that all was quiet [illegible] that [illegible] expedition [illegible] organised [illegible] M. Sofoulis [illegible] nothing was known [illegible] in the island. After a short stay the "Medea" left, but she soon returned, fresh disturbances suddenly [illegible] on the island. With the forces of the insurgents [illegible] sympathisers from outside [illegible] however [illegible] a few were Cretans. Several [illegible] detachments were landed from the [illegible] ships for the protection of the lives of foreigners at Vathy. Order [illegible] restored, chiefly by the French commander, [illegible] Turkish troops [illegible] the representations of the protecting Powers at Constantinople [illegible] the Prince absolutely [illegible] the [illegible] of M. Sofoulis. Matters were in this state when the protecting Powers [illegible] consuls-general at Smyrna to the island to restore order and [illegible] consuls [illegible] warned M. Sofoulis that if [illegible] not keep quiet the [illegible] Turkish troops would not be prevented by the Powers. They also [illegible] order on the island by making the Senate responsible. This latter body [illegible] together a body of gendarmerie, which succeeded in keeping the peace. The consuls-general also drew up a comprehensive scheme of reforms. In the opinion of [illegible] Governments, however, the moment was not opportune, and the question of [illegible] was postponed till the final settlement of the islands question. Things remained perfectly quiet after the departure of the consuls-general in October, and His Majesty's ship "Medea" was instructed to leave Samian waters. The annexation of [illegible] to Greece was proclaimed on the 24th November.

MODIFICATION OF THE ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE LEBANON

With the re-establishment of the Constitution the Lebanese not unnaturally hoped to benefit with the rest of the Empire by the new spirit of liberalism which was to inspire the body politic of Turkey, and in 1909 and 1910 a small party taking the professions of the Committee of Union and Progress at their face value, and

[illegible] encouraged no doubt by Yussuf Franco Pasha, who [illegible] to keep on good terms [illegible] powers at Constantinople [illegible] to agitate for the abolition [illegible] special privileges [illegible] to the Mountain by the Organic Statute of 1864, [illegible] they were [illegible] of freedom [illegible] would render [illegible]. The [illegible] opposed to abandoning their [illegible] position [illegible] by the Powers and merely desired that the [illegible] Statute which, despite various modifications wrung from time to time [illegible] from the Porte, was still [illegible] the original instrument [illegible] conditions of 1864, should be so altered as to bring it [illegible] the relatively high level of political [illegible] brought about by the steady [illegible] and moral progress of the last five decades. The [illegible] expiration of Yussuf Pasha's term of office provided the opportunity [illegible] these aspirations, and before the end of 1911 various schemes of reform were being discussed, the chief objects of which were as follows:

(a) The reform of the electoral system.

(b) Limitation of the Governor's powers to suspend and punish members of the administrative council.

(c) [illegible] of [illegible] courts.

(d) [illegible] the question [illegible] Imperial Treasury, which had not been paid for some [illegible] years.

(e) The opening to steam [illegible] traffic of the ports on the Lebanese littoral.

(f) The [illegible] status of the [illegible].

The preliminary discussions [illegible] carried on [illegible] with the legal advisers of the Porte by MM. [illegible] and Batsekh [illegible] Russian consuls-general [illegible] and Mr. Mallet, on behalf of their respective embassies, seemed to [illegible] the majority of these points, but the [illegible] Cabinet, over which Said Pasha presided, proved less [illegible], and [illegible] the greatest reluctance to agree to any reforms calculated to accentuate [illegible] the special regime of the Mountain. With the fall of Said's Government [illegible] expected that more liberal views would prevail, but the [illegible] of the Committee [illegible] the new Cabinet was still [illegible] strong and [illegible] Gabriel Effendi, after much pressure, at length [illegible] the French Ambassador the reforms [illegible] were [illegible] by M. Bompard, who was [illegible] ourselves and the Russian Government to take the lead in this [illegible] the expiry of Yussuf Pasha's term of office, which left the [illegible] was expected would induce the Porte to yield, only resulted in a [illegible] concessions on the part of the Turks, [illegible] being still further protracted by the outbreak of the Balkan war, until the 23rd December, when the protocol was finally signed.

[illegible] choice of the new [illegible] there was at [illegible] serious difficulty. Of the three [illegible] to the Powers by Said Pasha's Cabinet that of [illegible] was perhaps the most suitable, but his [illegible] was ruled out by the French [illegible] member of the Greek Catholic [illegible], the [illegible] communities existing in the Lebanon, and was therefore [illegible] was considered peculiarly [illegible] influence, and Aram Effendi, an Armenian Catholic [illegible] administrative experience, was selected. [illegible] fact of his having been [illegible] Committee nominee, Aram Effendi's appointment was distasteful to the new Government, and Ohannes Effendi Kouyoumjian, the Under-Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was put forward and accepted by the Powers. He is an [illegible] intelligent official, but I should judge him to take rather a narrow view of affairs, and he certainly lacks energy and determination [illegible] previous administrative experience.

Although the protocol of the 23rd December does not fulfil all the desiderata enumerated in the earlier part of this section, a very substantial measure of reform has been achieved on five out of the seven points, while on a sixth, i.e., that of the Lebanese ports, partial satisfaction has been obtained by a declaration of the Porte, conveyed in a *note verbale* of the 21st December, that the ports of Jounieh and Nebi Younis will henceforward be open to steamers. Thus only one question, that of the recognition of the personal status of the Lebanese outside the limits of the Mountain, remains as it was.

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The Bagdad Railway and Persian Gulf.

The negotiations connected with the Bagdad Railway and Persian Gulf which took place during the year 1912 were carried on exclusively between the Ottoman Embassy at London and the Foreign Office, and it is therefore only proposed to enumerate the salient points of the proposals and counter proposals.

It will be remembered that at the end of 1911 no answer had as yet been received to the memorandum handed to the Turkish Ambassador on the 29th July of that year. This reply was received on the 15th April, 1912. The first point dealt with was the division of the shares capital in the Bagdad Basra section. To the proposal that Great Britain, Turkey, Germany, France, and Russia should all participate in the line, receiving a 20 per cent. share each, the Turkish memorandum replied by suggesting that the four Powers excluding Russia, should receive a 22½ per cent. share while the presidency of the administration should be vested in a Turk who would have the casting vote. The Ottoman Government did not find it possible to give any guarantee about differential tariffs which, they said, were influenced by considerations such as the distance that merchandise was going to travel &c., but they promised that British merchandise should enjoy all facilities compatible with agreements made with the Bagdad Railway Company. They also accepted in principle the prolongation of the line from Bagdad to Basra with certain conditions of an economic and technical character; on the other hand they were not prepared to agree to the arrangement that was arrived at for the Bagdad Basra section being of lasting duration, on the ground that they could not come to an arrangement different to that arrived at for the railways as far as Bagdad. They also inserted a proviso that any new company which might be formed would have to compensate the Bagdad Railway Company for the remuneration of their concession for this part of the line. The memorandum refused to accept navigation rights on the Shatt-el-Arab, but promised equality of treatment to British vessels. As far as the prolongation of the railway from Basra to the Gulf was concerned the Ottoman Government promised that, although there was no immediate intention of proceeding to the construction of such a railway, satisfactory assurances would be given. Turning to political and territorial questions connected with the Persian Gulf, the memorandum insisted on Turkish sovereignty over the Persian port of El Katr, but abandoned all claim to the Bahrein Islands, on condition that the merchant ships should not enjoy the privileges of the capitulations in Ottoman harbours. It was stated to recognise the autonomy of the Sheikh of Koweit on condition that new agreements were made on the subject between the Ottoman and the British Governments, while effective Ottoman sovereignty was to be maintained over the islands of Bubiyan and Warba. Finally, the Ottoman Government consented to a river commission for the Shatt-el-Arab on condition that it was an Ottoman institution, though British technicians would be employed, while the policing of the Persian Gulf should be undertaken conjointly by the two Governments.

The reply of His Majesty's Government to the Turkish memorandum was forwarded to Tewfik Pasha on the 15th July. In the covering note two points were touched upon which were not mentioned in the enclosure —

1. That there should be one British director on the board of Bagdad Railway Company.
2. The question of the representation of Persian interests on the International Rivers Commission.

The body of the memorandum was divided into three parts —

1. The Bagdad Railway question.
2. British and Ottoman interests in the Persian Gulf.
3. Increase in the Turkish customs duties.

Bagdad Railway.

His Majesty's Government withdrew their request for participation in the railway from Bagdad to Basra on the following conditions —

(*a*) An arrangement for the exclusion of differential treatment on all railways in Asiatic Turkey.

(*b*) The admission of two British representatives, approved by His Majesty's Government, to the board of whatever company might undertake the construction or working of the railway from Bagdad to Basra.

(*c*) The terminus of the railway to be at Basra.

(*d*) No railway to be continued beyond Basra to the Persian Gulf without prior agreement with His Majesty's Government, and on conditions acceptable to them.

(*e*) A convention (of which a draft was enclosed) for the future conservancy of the Shatt-el-Arab.

(*f*) Permission to be given for three British steamers to navigate between Bagdad and Basra in addition to the number already allowed.

Persian Gulf.

His Majesty's Government expressed their gratification at the attitude of the Ottoman Government respecting Bahrein, but felt themselves bound to insist on Turkey's definite renunciation of any claim to sovereignty over the Peninsula of El Katr including El Bidaa. His Majesty's Government expressed themselves willing to recognise the Sheikh of Koweit as Turkish Kaimakam, but were concerned to ensure the continuance of Local Government there as defined in the memorandum of the 29th July, 1911. They attached importance to the withdrawal of the Turkish military post at Bubiyan, and also to a settlement of the frontier of Mohammerah. His Majesty's Government finally refused to entertain the Turkish proposal that the policing and control of the waters of the Persian Gulf should be divided between the two Governments.

Turkish Customs Duties.

His Majesty's Government promised to consent to an increase of the Turkish customs duties from 11 to 15 per cent. on condition that the Ottoman Government accepted all the conditions dealt with in the memorandum, and concerned in the removal of the veto on the borrowing powers of Egypt.

At the end of the year 1912 the Ottoman Embassy in London had forwarded no reply to this communication.

The Turco-Persian Frontier, 1912.

On the 11th January it was reported by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mosul that, according to information received by the Governor-General of that place, Russian troops had occupied Urmi, and were about to occupy Soujboulak. On the 14th of the same month the attention of His Majesty's Government was drawn by the Ottoman Government to the statements made in the Russian Foreign Office Memorandum of 1911, respecting the retention of the Turkish districts bordering on the Caspian Sea, the contested districts described as "Persian Kurdistan," and the Turkish Government's claim to the Persian districts of Ushnu and Soujboulak. The suggestion was further made by the Ottoman Government that, as these districts were manifestly in London to be used by the Turkish Government in support of their pretensions to the disputed territory, a protest should be made against these proceedings and a warning addressed to the Porte that the occupation of documents so obtained would not be recognised by the British and Russian Governments. This suggestion was agreed to by His Majesty's Government and an intimation to the above sense passed from the Porte on the 30th January. The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a verbal reply to the British note, affirmed that no value was attached to such documents by the Porte, and that while it was certainly a fact that many villagers had expressed a desire to become Ottoman subjects, the reply given was that they might enter the Turkey and assume Turkish nationality, but that, in that case, they would be expected to remain. The case of the Porte, it was stated by Assim Bey, rested on documents and maps, the authenticity of which would be established by the Mixed Commission, or more probably by The Hague Tribunal, and it was intimated by His Excellency that the Russian Government would be approached by the Porte with a view of obtaining guarantees by the former Power of certain of the contested districts now occupied by it, should these districts be eventually awarded to Turkey. Representations were, it appears, addressed by the Porte in the above sense to the Russian Government, as also that Soujboulak should not be occupied by the latter. To these representations

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the Russian Government replied towards the end of February that they never had any intention of occupying Turkish territory; that it was premature to discuss questions between Turkey and Persia which were to be investigated by the Mixed Commission, and that the Turkish Government could not deny that Persian troops were stationed where exists the dispute to be submitted to the Commission as question. But for a few days of the districts occupied by the Turkish troops were outside the line, the zone there was not the least likelihood of any such decision as that referred to as the Turkish Government being taken either by the Mixed Commission or by The Hague Tribunal.

At the end of January the Turkish Ambassador in St Petersburgh reported to his Government that Russian troops had occupied Ivir Salmas and Urmia and it was not contested that the total strength of the Russian forces in those districts was at this time some 8,000 men. On the other hand reports as to measures for strengthening the Turkish troops on the Bayazid frontier and in the contested districts had been received during January from His Majesty's consular representatives at Erzeroum and Van, and a certain anxiety was manifested by the Russian Government at the reports which they on their part had received of a possible further Turkish advance. The Persian subjects, however which the Persian Russian Government agreed to refer to the Porte on the inadmissibility of such advance in view of their proceedings at the meeting of the Mixed Commission were found unnecessary, as it appeared from the report of the military attaché at the Embassy at Constantinople, to whom the matter of these preparations and encampments had been submitted that, although the original intentions of the Turkish Government may have been these measures did not appear to be in the nature of an advance.

A request by the Persian Government towards the end of January for the communication of the reports of the proceedings at Baghdad and Mohammerah of the Mixed Demarcation Commission of 1850 was not acceded to, pending the explanation by the Russian Government, in a full statement, which was in course of preparation, of the views of His Majesty's Government with regard to the last-mentioned district. In this case the Russian Government contended and it was eventually conceded that the consideration of these points generally should be left to the discretion of the representatives of the two Governments at Constantinople.

On the 9th March the Persian delegates to the forthcoming Mixed Commission arrived in Constantinople, their names being

> His Excellency Saad-ed-Dowleh, Persian Ambassador at Constantinople,
> Nizam-ul-Mulk, ex Vice Governor of Tabriz, and
> Hadi Khan, Secretary to the Persian Embassy at Constantinople.

The Turkish delegates were —

> Hadji Adil Bey, Under Secretary to the Grand Vizierate,
> Daoud Pasha, Lieutenant General, and
> Ali Nazif Pasha, Brigadier General.

Of the above Hajji Saad-ed-Dowleh and Nizam-ul-Mulk are the sole of the Persians, Daoud Pasha and Ali Nazif Pasha are those of the Turks, had already been employed on previous frontier commissions.

Messrs. Shipley and Minorsky were attached by the British and Russian Governments to the staffs of their respective Embassies as technical advisers.

Much considerable anxiety was manifested by the Porte at the reports which had received from Persia by the Russian Government in the South of Russia, that in consequence, it was feared by the Government that Russia was about to demand the evacuation by the Turkish troops of the contested territories on the Persian frontier. Both of these reports was denied by the Russian Government who stated that the Erivan army was being sent to the Caucasus to reinforce the troops there, a statement to the effect having been made two years previously. Assurances were also given to His Majesty's Government by the Russian Government that no annexation was being contemplated by them, nor was there any intention on their part of forestalling any decision of The Hague Tribunal with regard to the frontier question.

On its part assurances which were considered satisfactory by the Russian Ambassador were given by the Porte that certain revolutionaries, the presence of whom at Khoi has been complained of by the Russian Government, would be expelled, that no census operations or elections would be permitted in the contested

districts, that the guard of the Khoi consulate would not be increased, and finally that no troops whatever would be moved eastward of their present positions.

Later in the month it was reported by His Majesty's Vice Consul at Van that the officer commanding the army corps in that district had received orders to proceed to the contested zone with a view of arranging matters to the satisfaction of Russia. A further reinforcement of a more formidable character to that part of Turkey was given by Mahmud Shevket Pasha the Minister for War, who, while expressing surprise at the reports which he had himself not seen had been received by Russia as to the strategic importance of the contested districts, stated that if Khoi and Urmia or even half Persia were included in Turkey, the latter had no desire to become possessed of these territories.

Speaking to His Majesty's Ambassador at St Petersburgh on the possible results of a reference by Turkey to The Hague Tribunal of the points in dispute between herself and Persia, should peaceful views were at this time entertained by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs. According to information which had been supplied to the Turkish Government could make out a strong case, could support it by the Turkish Government could make out a strong case, could prove from registers of tolls and statements by the inhabitants in the districts concerned by the Russian Government that the districts which had always been considered by them as part of Azerbaijan were to which to the former country Russia would have to [illegible] of Azerbaijan were to which to the former country Russia would have to [illegible] a free hand in her policy with regard to the frontier districts. So long as [illegible] Russia had nothing to fear but she could not always keep [illegible] Russia had nothing to fear but she could not always keep her [illegible] unprovoked attacks of Turkish troops upon German flags. In any case Persia must be made to understand that the British and Russian Governments must be consulted before they take any steps with regard to the proposed arbitration and that one of the arbitrators must be a Russian or an Englishman.

His Majesty's Government on receiving the report of the above conversation, [illegible] that while they were aware of the decision by Turkey of the points [illegible] to be referred to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, they were in such case referred to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, they were in a position to cause to Persia certain counter-documents of great legal weight. His Majesty's Government however, would be prepared to consider the strength which would be added to the three Persian delegates by the presence especially with a maintenance of the status quo at Mohammerah was considered by them to be a matter of great importance.

In connection with a view of the apparent intention of the Turkish Government to have recourse in the alternative to The Hague Tribunal, it was deemed expedient by His Majesty's Government that as many points as possible should be settled by the Mixed Commission, and the Persian delegates were advised accordingly.

The first two sittings of the Mixed Commission, at which the proceedings were chiefly formal were held on the 25th and 28th March respectively. A suggestion made by the Russian Government that at the Porte should be invited to draw up the basis of the negotiations of the Commission for frontier zone accepted provisionally by it in 1875 was agreed to in principle by His Majesty's Government who, however, expressed themselves as desirous before proceeding further in the matter, of seeing the Convention to which the Russian Government proposed to address to the Porte.

At the third sitting of the Commission (28th March) the Persian delegates were ready their formal reasons to state as a preliminary to further discussion what they accepted as forming an integral part of the Treaty of Erzeroum of 1848 to explain in regard to which the Turkish delegates were of opinion that in view of the extensive and [illegible] claims put forward by the Turkish Commissioners in 1840 under this expiry rate and of the importance in regard to the relations which His Majesty's Government had entered into with the Sheikh of Mohammerah of the frontier line in that district as locally observed for the past sixty years not being disturbed the question of the acceptance of the explanatory Turkish note be considered by the Persian delegates unless its effect were first shown to the latter by the Persian delegates. These views met with the concurrence of the Russian Government, who who they were confidentially communicated, and who promised them full and energetic support. In the meantime instructions had been sent by the Persian Government to their delegates not to accept these notes, the decision of not acceptance being communicated by the latter to their Turkish colleagues at the sitting of the commission of the 8th April. In reply the Turkish delegates, after giving their reasons at some length in support of the validity of the note as an integral part

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of the treaty, declared that the point at issue would be reserved by them for the decision of the Hague Tribunal.

As, however, it was considered important by His Majesty's Government that this point should, if possible, not be left to The Hague Tribunal, instructions were given that the British [illegible] should be pressed to show to the Persian delegate on a map the extent [illegible] under the note in question.

Assurances were given by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that there was no [illegible] on the part of the Porte to disturb the *status quo* at Mohammerah, but though frequently pressed to define the precise meaning attached by the Turkish Government to this *status quo*, it was not until the [illegible]th June that a map showing the line in that district which the Turkish Government would be prepared to accept was [illegible] Assim Bey, who added that if the proposed line did not meet with the wishes of His Majesty's Government, he trusted it would be possible to find one which did.

The line in question, however, was not considered satisfactory by His Majesty's Government [illegible] less favourable to Persia than the Mediating Commissioners' line of 1850.

A proposal made by the Persian delegates towards the end of June to accept the explanatory [illegible] certain conditions, led to a further exchange of views on this particular point between His Majesty's Government and the Russian Government. His Majesty's Government did not consider it expedient merely to urge the Porte to accept the interpretation of the explanatory note as given by the British and Russian Commissioners in 1850. [illegible] by stages [illegible] at an [illegible] recommendations would be [illegible] His Majesty's Government, who were preparing a map, which would shortly be submitted to the Russian Government, showing in detail the line in question. It was, therefore, His Majesty's Government considered, advisable to recommend to Persia [illegible] to accept the explanatory note, even conditionally, at the present juncture.

The Russian Government, while [illegible] refusing its adherence to the views of His Majesty's Government on this matter, pointed out that the northern part of the frontier, in which Russia was chiefly interested, had not yet been discussed, and expressed the fear that [illegible] the explanatory note were further delayed, there would not be time for the commission to come to an agreement. This latter point of view was, moreover, about the [illegible] urged [illegible] by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who stated that he feared that the continued refusal of the Persian delegates to accept the explanatory note might serve as a pretext to the Porte to annul the Treaty of Erzeroum.

On the 1st July a memorandum accompanied by a map showing in detail the [illegible] with His Majesty's Government desired to see established in the Mohammerah district was presented by the [illegible] the Turkish Ambassador in [illegible] proposal that the Persian delegates should be invited to accept unconditionally [illegible] His Majesty's Government [illegible] map showing [illegible] Mohammerah as claims [illegible] the British Government [illegible] the Porte [illegible] first communication to them with [illegible] explanations [illegible] the safeguarding [illegible] interests in that [illegible] Persian delegates [illegible] to adopt the course [illegible] proposed [illegible] their unconditional acceptance of the explanatory note at the sitting of the commission of the 17th August (*Procès-verbal* No. 17).

Similar representations were given by the British and Russian representatives at [illegible] Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The latter however refused to [illegible] acceptance by the Persian delegates [illegible] apparently, that it might entail loss of territory to Persia elsewhere, and, notwithstanding the urgent representations made by the two Governments, was this attitude subsequently modified by His Excellency.

Assurances of support in the matter of Mohammerah were given to His Majesty's Government by the Russian Government, who, in return, trusted that its own views as regards the northern part of the frontier would receive the support of His Majesty's Government. Shortly after the presentation of the British memorandum of the [illegible] intimation was given by the Russian Government of its intention to obtain by direct negotiation with the Porte a reversion approximately from Mount Ararat to Sulaimanieh to the line of frontier as existing in 190[illegible]. Its representations in this respect to the Porte would be based on article 3 of the Treaty of Erzeroum of 1848, the effect of the following words in which, viz.: "The two contracting parties having

by the present treaty abandoned all other territorial claims," [illegible], with the exception of Sulaimanieh, Zohab, and Mohammerah, specially referred to in the preceding articles, would, according to the Russian Government, be [illegible] the territorial stipulations of former treaties to cause the *status quo* of each party at the time of the signature of the treaty (1848) to be reverted to. His Majesty's Government, while calling the attention of the Russian Government to a statement in the joint note addressed by the representatives of the two mediating Powers the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 10th August, 1849, and which appeared to place the interpretation [illegible] in a somewhat different light, promised their support in the matter. On the 22nd August the Russian Ambassador in Constantinople presented to Gabriel Effendi, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had succeeded Assim Bey [illegible], a note embodying the views above referred to, and, stating that the Russian Government considered that the execution of the explicit stipulations of the Treaty of Erzeroum, pointing to the establishment of the *status quo* of 1848, could not be [illegible]. A memorandum, setting forth in detail the line of the frontier [illegible] to treaties in force, was attached to the note.

The reception accorded to the note by Gabriel Effendi was at first [illegible], a verbal assurance being given by him to the Russian Ambassador that it would receive [illegible] by the Council of Ministers. A similar assurance had been [illegible] in the case of the British note. But, although the necessity in the interests of Turkey of the prompt acceptance of the proposals contained in the British and Russian notes respectively was frequently urged upon the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and although in the case of the British note assurances were repeatedly given by his Excellency that there would be no difficulty in meeting the wishes of His Majesty's Government, no definite statement was obtained from Gabriel Effendi after that that the matter had been referred to the Council of Ministers, and up to the close of the year no answer has been forthcoming on the part of the Porte to either of the notes in question.

The presentation of the Russian note led to an exchange of views between the two Governments on the question of possible compensation by Persia to Turkey, [illegible] which allusion has already been made by His Majesty's Government [illegible] correspondence with the Russian Government relative to the British [illegible] Mohammerah. It was now agreed that should Turkey accept the line of frontier as proposed in the British and Russian notes, some territorial compensation for the [illegible] former [illegible] might become necessary in return for the abandonment by her of claims in the north and the south, and that the area of such compensation [illegible] to be [illegible] Zohab, it [illegible] pointed out by His Majesty's Government that [illegible] Treaty of Erzeroum [illegible] regards the latter region the provisions of [illegible] by the two Governments that had not been [illegible] by Persia. It was further [illegible] by the two Governments that instructions should be sent to Mr. Soane and Mr. [illegible] of the British and Russian consular representatives at Kasr-i-Shirin and Bagdad respectively, to draw up a consolidated report showing what [illegible] would be the portions of Zohab most suitable for compensation [illegible] report furnished by Mr. Soane [illegible] with the [illegible] accompanied by a letter from Mr. Orlof to His Majesty's [illegible] consul-general at Bagdad, agreeing in the main with Mr. Soane's conclusions, was forwarded to His Majesty's Government on the [illegible]th December. Full instructions as to the safeguarding of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's interests to the [illegible] of Kasr-i-Shirin, should the proposed compensation by Persia necessitate the placing of the property under Turkish jurisdiction were given in a despatch from His Majesty's Government of the [illegible]th August.

As the period fixed for the deliberations of the commission (25th October) was now rapidly approaching [illegible] and as it was evident that the time remaining would not suffice if the frontier questions still before it were to receive adequate discussion, a prolongation of three months was suggested by the Persian Ambassador and was eventually agreed to by the Porte, such prolongation to date from the 25th October.

From the end of March onwards, matters on the frontier would appear to have been on the whole fairly quiet, the only exception apparently being an encounter, at the end of April or beginning of May, between a detachment of Turkish troops and the Kotur Kurds under Ismail Agha (Simko), the chief of that district, which, according to the reports received by the Russian and Persian Governments, had been provoked by an incursion of the Turkish forces into Kotur. An identic note, presented by the British and Russian Governments to the Porte on the 1st June,

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[illegible] WITHOUT PERMISSION [illegible]

calling the attention of the latter to the action taken by Article 60 of the Berlin Treaty, which entitled the Sublime Porte to occupy the territory of Kotur. The Ottoman Government considered that the Convention of 1913 was not binding upon them, as it had not been ratified by the Persian Government within the time specified therein. In a report to the Porte, dated the 15th July, 1914, it was maintained that the arrangements as to the ratification question had been duly observed by the Porte, and that it remained for the Persian Government to establish with certainty that the troops in question had entered Turkish territory by mistake, and that the Turkish troops had merely repulsed this act of aggression and reoccupied the posts they had held previous to the encounter.

The reported retention of the Turkish Government to establish various frontier posts in the Mohammerah and Howizeh districts against which representations were made by His Majesty's Government in April, does not appear to have been carried out. The report of the occupation of Merivan by Turkish troops proved to be without foundation, while the proposed despatch from Kermanshah to Sennah of Persian battalion of 200 cavalry was subsequently countermanded, thirty soldiers only having been sent to reinforce the Turkish consular guard at that place owing, it was explained to the operations committed by Sheikh Bedeh and the neighbourhood. The disturbance was countermanded by the Turkish authorities being strongly urged by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On the other hand, according to reports from Tabriz the Russian garrison at Khoi and Urumia were being steadily increased, and at the end of October it was stated that the total of the Russian troops which had taken place could not be less than 10,000 men.

On the 19th October, His Majesty's Government was informed that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had recommended to his Government the evacuation by Turkey of the places occupied by her outside of territory on the Perso-Persian frontier since 1909. But that these places would not immediately be reoccupied by her should the evacuation be under the Ottoman Sanjak formation, was received with Russian Government, with the further statement that the Porte was disposed to the Persian Government should declare its readiness to occupy these posts to preserve order. Turkish troops, and also to promise to protect the Shah Dagh mines. The required assurances were given by the Persian Government, and the representative at Constantinople on the 31st October. On the 4th November, His Majesty's Government was informed that the Turkish troops had been withdrawn from Passe Khan, Naghdi and Sidauz) and by the end of that month the operations from the direction of Khoi to the Persian Ambassador, Hakkari and St. Petersburg communicated to His Majesty's Government on the 28th November, that with the exception of Kazi Ghel, Bukhtiaris and Nefchan in the extreme north of the frontier the evacuation by the Turkish districts occupied by them was complete. The measures, adopted locally by the Persian Government to establish authority in the districts of the Turkish troops, were approved by Mirzaga Khoda Nazar, the deputy of Dr. Ismail Bey, Bergan and Ali Bey had shown himself to be. These representations were supported by the Russian Government, who urged upon His Excellency the necessity of speedy settlement of the boundary question, and of establishing once for all a fixed frontier on the basis of the British and Russian notes respectively. The reply of the Grand Vizier was not unfavourable to the commencement by His Excellency, on the 3rd December that Ali Bey would not form part of the commission as representative of the Turkish side, coupled with the new withdrawal above referred to of the Turkish troops from the contested districts appeared to afford an indication that the Turkish Government was about to recommend the policy of had hitherto pursued with regard to this question. There was however, considerable delay in the appointment of the new Turkish members of the commission, and up to the end of the year their names had not been officially made known.

Annual Report upon Sanitary Affairs in the Turkish Empire during the year 1912

The matters dealt with in the present report are grouped under the following headings:

The Cholera Epidemic.
Plagues of Locusts.
The Mesopotamian Pilgrimage.
The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway.
Special Missions of the Board of Health.
The Constantinople War.
The Balkan War.
The Finances of the Board of Health.
The Mixed Commission for Revision of the Sanitary Tariff.

The Cholera Epidemic.

Cholera has been present to a greater or less extent in some portion of the Turkish Empire throughout the year. In the early months it was confined to the southern part of Asia Minor in the neighbourhood of Adana and Tarsus and to the extensive works of the Baghdad Railway, in northern Syria, and in the port of Alexandretta. It later spread over the greater portion of Asia Minor, to the northern part of the valley of the Euphrates and to the coasts of Syria, but nowhere gave rise to a severe epidemic.

In Constantinople the previous year's outbreak of the disease began to show itself in the form of sporadic cases until February 1912. The city was then free from infection until early in November when it appeared among the refugees who had fled to the city in consequence of the Balkan war. About the same time it also began to appear, sporadically among the Turkish troops at Chatalja and for a while in large numbers of soldiers, detained at Lagos from the hospitals were carrying the infection to Smyrna and Salonica. A little later an endeavour was made to control the cholera which had been introduced with troops at San Stefano, some 7 miles from the walls of Stamboul. Some tents were put up on the fields and camps were considered, but large numbers were said to have died, without shelter or treatment of any kind. In hospitals on the north coast, as that near Odjakeui, the cases were not exaggerated, but there is no reason to believe that they were at any time in the city. The number of cases will probably never be known, but it was undoubtedly very great. In Constantinople the disease began when large numbers were put in the principal mosques, which gave rise to the belief that the disease was carried by the troops. It is also believed that the long marches, the difficulties of transport, the prevailing wet weather, the want of proper food and shelter, and the resulting condition of the troops, were largely responsible for the spread of the disease. In St. Sophia alone it is reported that the number of deaths was something between 700 and 1,500.

In the general population of Constantinople the disease caused a serious but not excessive mortality. Between the 7th November and the 30th December 2,312 cases and 1,146 deaths were recorded, the latter figures relatively small in number, among the refugees. The outbreak was at its height in the week ending 14th December, when 510 cases and 229 deaths were recorded. Though these figures were probably below the truth, they do not appear to be out of proportion to the extent of the epidemic. At the moment of writing (January 1913), the disease has almost completely disappeared.

In the middle of November when the epidemic was rapidly increasing, the Bulgarian attack on the Chatalja lines took place, and it was feared that the defeated Turkish army might fall back on Constantinople followed by the victorious enemy. On Sunday 17th November, a special meeting of the Board of Health was convened and presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at which it was communicated to the Porte that, in view of the overcrowded state of the town and the influx of refugees, and of the possibility of further disastrous results for the public health of Europe if the disease should enter the city, it was hoped that urgent steps would be taken to prevent this happening. This view was transmitted to the foreign Governments by their respective delegates.

At the same meeting the Minister for Foreign Affairs made an urgent appeal for funds from the Board's reserve to be used to supplement the measures taken to control

the cholera epidemic by the municipal and military authorities. A first sum of £T 10,000 was voted for this purpose, and a special committee of the Board was appointed to administer this sum. A little later a second sum of £T 10,000 was voted for the same object. With these sums cholera hospitals were opened in various parts of the town, squads of disinfectors were organised, who did good work in disinfecting the mosques and the infected quarters of the city and in burying the dead, and a cholera hospital or "portable" buildings has recently been put up at San Stefano, which, if somewhat remote from the city, may be regarded as a useful addition to the sanitary hospital accommodation at present existing there.

Plague Outbreaks.

The seasonal revival of plague in Jeddah was limited to the occurrence of about a score of cases between the 13th February and the 15th March. This was the mildest outbreak of the disease in Jeddah for several years past.

Two cases of plague occurred at Yakhrab and Ana in July. The disease has caused several small epidemics in many parts of the Kirghiz steppes of South-East Russia throughout the year, and has been more or less prevalent in some portions of Egypt since more than 4 years.

A sharp outbreak of pneumonic plague occurred at a place 7 kilom. distant from the port of Algiers in July, and in September some fifteen cases of plague were reported from Cape Bengut, and the port was declared infected for the present Hajj.

At Bushire on the Persian Gulf, plague reappeared in February, the outbreak resulting apparently from the importation of rats, which, from 150 to 160 cases were occurring weekly, till the detection, and was stamped out by the middle of June. A few imported cases were also seen at Basra.

In July two imported cases of plague were reported from Trieste.

The Moslem Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage Hajj of 1911 12 was declared "bad," owing to the presence of cholera at Hedjaz. Several cases of the disease were landed at the Tor lazaret from ships returning from Jeddah or Yambo.

The pilgrimage Hajj of 1912 fell mainly in the summer and autumn months. Hedjaz was not infected this year, owing to the presence of efficient sanitary parties of the Moslem world.

The Turkish "Distinctions spéciales aux hôpitaux maritimes, Ports, &c.," remained under discussion, and the present system of pilgrim passing has been taken to convert them into "ports of call," to be sanctioned only by Parliament and by Imperial trade. But no such steps have since been taken.

The Sanitary Defence of the Hedjaz Railway.

In the season of Hajj of 1911 12 15,370 pilgrims passed through the Tebuk lazaret, coming by rail from Syria to Medina. Three cases from cholera occurred among the natives hospitalised there.

In the returning Hajj of the same year 17,888 pilgrims entered the cordons. Very considerable delays occurred during their halt, there were apparently 3 cases of cholera.

The pilgrims' quarter of the lazaret of Tebuk has been considerably enlarged, several new sheds having been erected and the ground cleaned, so that there is now room for some 10,000 pilgrims at a time.

Special Missions of the Board of Health.

No mission of the Board was undertaken during the year, but the reports of two missions carried out in the preceding year were printed in 1912. The first was that of the mission which visited the northern portion of the Turco-Persian frontier; it proposed the establishment of certain new sanitary stations along that part of the frontier, but effect can be given to the proposals until the £T 280,000 assigned by the Mixed Commission to such objects can be made available. The second was a report written by the French delegate on the Tebuk lazaret, in which the selection of the site at Tebuk is fully endorsed.

The projected mission to the southern part of the Turco-Persian frontier was unable to start, as intended, last winter, owing to the late date at which the Paris International Sanitary Conference ended. It has also been unable to start in the present winter, owing to the Balkan war.

The Turco-Italian War.

As stated in my last annual report, the sanitary employés of Italian nationality were dismissed from the service in November 1911. Since the conclusion of peace in October 1912 the Board has been compelled, under article 9 of the Treaty of Lausanne, not only to readmit to the service all the employés thus dismissed, but also to pay them their full salaries during the interval. This has cost the Board funds a sum of about £T 8,000. Nor is this the whole loss the Fonds will have to sustain, for some time must yet elapse before all the Italian employés can be found vacant posts, and not a little injustice will be done to others who have in the meantime been named to those posts.

Considerable trouble was caused to the officials of the Canarin lazaret by the blockade of the Yemen coast (including Canarin) by the Italian fleet during the pilgrim season.

The Balkan War.

But few of the Board's employés were subjects of the allied Balkan States, and on this occasion none were dismissed from the service. A considerable number of employés of Turkish nationality were, however, affected by the call to arms, and the Board decided to regard all such as on leave during the war, to advance their three months' pay, and to hold their posts temporarily at the Board's expense. A heavy expenditure has also been caused by compensation, in the form of "secours" and "indemnités" paid to many employés, who fled or were driven from their posts in Macedonia, Albania, and the Islands.

Another effect of the war has been the reduction of shipping movement in Turkish waters, with consequent reduction in the sanitary dues collected, and this will probably prove to have had a very serious effect on the Board's finances for the current financial year.

The loss to Turkey of a large portion of her European territory must also cause a permanent loss to the Board's revenues which will probably not be compensated for by the reduction in the number of sanitary officers and officials.

The Board's Finances.

The balance sheet for 1911 12 is still in the printers' hands, but the following figures are now available:—

	Piastres.
The Sanitary Service shows a fall in receipts and a rise in expenditure, the net surplus amounting to	1,302,001 61
The Caisse de Dettes	
Income on investments	1,686,085 61
Agios	537,[illegible] 29
Profit and loss account	49,479 8.5
Making a total sanitary margin of	3,46[illegible] 38 5½
The Quarantine service gave a surplus of	1,0[illegible]8,7 47
The total margin was consequently	4,[illegible]2[illegible]3.5[illegible] 0[illegible]

Though this figure is less than that of the previous year (when the total margin was the largest on record) by some 1,500,000 piastres, an administration which shows a net surplus on one year's working of 3d 500*l* can only be regarded as a most satisfactory financial condition, more especially when it is recalled that in the last five months of the year Turkey was at war with a first-class Power and that the Dardanelles was actually closed for a portion of the time.

The financial results of the current year (1912-1913) must, on the other hand, prove to be much less satisfactory. The Board's receipts have been seriously affected by the Balkan war, and its funds have had to bear heavy drains from the return of the Italian employés, the large sums given in compensation to sufferers from the war, and in other ways. The expenditure of £T 20,000 for cholera measures, above referred to, has further depleted the Board's coffers, and for the first time in the history of the administration, it has been necessary to sell some of the Board's invested funds.

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The Mixed Commission and the Question of the Statute Tariff

But little progress has been made during the year towards putting into execution the decisions of the Mixed Commission as contained in the latter's report of that body signed on the 26th May, 1911. As stated in my last annual report, the Sublime Porte submitted a counter note to the foreign embassies on the 7th September of that year, accepting the proposals of the commission, but raising some other questions not dealt with by it. To this the Powers replied at considerable length in a further note. This note was sent by His Majesty's Embassy on the 16th January, 1912, but several months elapsed before all the other missions took the same step. Since then the Porte, in spite of repeated pressure, has shown very little sympathy. Owing to the continued state of war, it must be added, there is but scanty hope of any practical results being arrived at for a considerable time, in spite of the crying need for carrying out the numerous reforms proposed by the commission's report.

British Claims and Cases.

The general conditions prevailing throughout 1912 were not favourable to the settlement of our pending cases of a contentious or complicated character. As usual, many minor cases arose and were settled as a result of representations to the Central Government in the course of the year, but none of them is worthy of individual mention.

The following cases, dating from before 1912, were settled during the year:—

1. *Abbott Claim.* Particulars of this claim, arising out of the culpable neglect of the local authorities to protect a British subject's farm in the vilayet of Salonica, were given in the annual report for 1911, p. 37. As a result of considerable pressure, the Government finally recognised its liability, and compounded the claim by a payment of £T. 275 to Mr. Abbott in April, 1912.

2. *Tyrrel and Nice Claim.* This claim to recover £701 advanced by the Foreign Office to workers of the Mavrokordatos mine in 1907, was, after the usual procrastination, at last settled. The question of interest, as to whether it should not be calculated on the loan granted the company, only from the date of the Embassy's application to the Porte, or from July 1908. The Embassy pointed out that a claim for what was in fact a matter of account between the two Governments should not be placed on the same footing as ordinary claims by individuals. The Porte admitted this contention, and the amount was paid to the Embassy in March, 1912.

3. *Forembach and Thomas Claim.* This was a claim against the Ministry of War for the sum of £T. 124 for cloth supplied by Messrs. Forembach, Radford & Co. for cloth, &c., supplied in 1910. It included various deductions on the ground that the goods were of inferior quality, and after paying a certain sum into Court Messrs. Forembach, Radford & Co. refused to accept this amount. After this was settled and the goods were found to be of inferior quality, the Ministry of War refused to pay the balance. The difficulty was overcome by a payment owing to the partial failure of the Ottoman Government, which, by order, belonged to the Imperial Family. The Embassy strongly insisted that such difficulty could be allowed to have no connection whatever with the claim, but to a foreign subject, and the balance was finally paid in full at the end of March, 1912.

4. *Bagdad Merchants' Claim.* This claim, for about £200, was put in on behalf of the Bagdad Chamber of Commerce, and was supported by the Embassy at Constantinople. It was based on the Ottoman Law fixing the rate of interest at 9 per cent., which was paid by the Porte in March, 1912, after much pressure had been made by the Embassy. The Porte, however, claimed that it had been waived by the merchants themselves. (See annual report for 1911, p. 57.)

5. *Pogiatzi Hospital.* In July, 1912, the Embassy, after a considerable amount of discussion with the Porte, obtained a firman for the construction by the Church Missionary Society of a hospital at Bagdad. The case is of interest, because His Majesty's Government agreed, for the first time, to a condition which the Turkish Government had long been anxious to impose, viz., that new charitable and scholastic institutions should pay the ordinary taxes on the property instead of enjoying the exemption accorded to the older institutions. In this we followed the example of the other Powers, who are largely interested in such cases.

6. *Greek Mission Title Deeds.* This very protracted business ended at the beginning of 1913, on the issue of title deeds in the corporate name of the mission of certain property belonging to the Society of Friends in the Kum Kapu quarter of Constantinople. The case was complicated owing to a variety of reasons, including a

failure on the part of certain heirs of a deceased trustee to relinquish the Society's ownership.

The following are some of the more important cases:—

1. *Ferry Boat.* The general question of claims for ferry boat damaged, or totally destroyed, during the Greco-Turkish war of 1897, was mentioned briefly in connection with the Greek claims in the annual report for 1911, p. 42. No progress has been made during the present year, and the situation is such as to give no hope of a speedy settlement, and the Greek Government is not likely to press the matter. Should, however, the Greek Government show a disposition to settle the question, the Embassy is instructed to submit the claims of three British subjects, Messrs. Anderson, Macandrew & Co., for the value of their vessel the "Red Sea," which was destroyed by the Turkish authorities during the war, and the claim of Messrs. Peterson, Nelson & Co., for arrears of salary due under contracts with the Transit Administration. The Porte has now admitted the validity of the claims in principle, but a difference of opinion exists as to the amounts due.

2. *Adana Claims.* These claims arising out of the disturbances at Adana in April, 1909, were dealt with on page 5 of the annual report for that year. Some at least of the documents connected with the claims of His Majesty's Government were forwarded by the Embassy to assist them, but no decision has been arrived at by the Turkish Government.

3. *British Robbery on the Red Sea Persian Caravan.* See page 11 of the annual report for 1910. Circumstances have not been propitious for the pressing of these claims, and no progress has been made, although it has been decided to present a fresh claim for the stated sum of £T. 1,000 to the Porte in order that a proper record may exist.

4. *Ismail Murder.*—A British subject, Mr. Peter Brailsford, agent for Messrs. MacAlpine & Co., engineers and general merchants, was shot in the window of his house at Ismail on the 21st January, 1912, and died almost immediately. It was known that as the result of certain cases he had to settle with the widow of a Russian subject, and certain cases had to be settled with the heirs of three persons, two of whom had been executed and sentenced, one to death and the other to ten years' imprisonment. The sentences were however quashed by the Court of Cassation, and the case has now been entirely settled by the Criminal Court of Appeal. The Embassy and the Consulate-General at Adrianople both constantly pressed for the punishment of the murderer, and the Vali was strongly reprimanded immediately on hearing of the murder. The Turkish authorities, however, were not to be lacking in energy in dealing with the matter. The question of a money indemnity was raised, but His Majesty's Government decided that in view of the careful examination that the circumstances were subjected to by the Turkish Government, and the fact that the murder had not been committed by any Turkish subject, it was not necessary to press for any pecuniary compensation.

5. *Ottoman Consular Courts.*—This case arises out of the refusal of the Turkish authorities to recognise certain persons, on the ground that they are not Ottoman subjects, to the privileges of the Capitulations. The question of the status of certain persons claiming the protection of British Consular Courts is a difficult one, and has been the subject of long discussion between the Embassy and the Porte. The Embassy's view is that the privileges and immunities of other Consular Courts will not be allowed to persons who, according to Turkish law, are not considered Ottoman subjects, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary. The Ottoman Government, on the other hand, contend that the circumstances were not sufficiently exceptional to justify the Consular Courts in granting protection to the persons in question. In view of the fact that the Ottoman Government have refused to modify their attitude, and the case has become one of considerable importance to a large number of British subjects, the Embassy has been instructed to press for the recognition of the special British privileges claimed by the persons in question. It is not known, however, how many cases of the kind are pending. The question is complicated by the practice which prevails, specially in Smyrna, of transferring to British companies the concessions which the capitulations confer on individuals interested in largely non-British concerns, in which the capitulations confer no rights. Such companies are, as a rule, assessed to taxation by the Turkish authorities on the same basis as British subjects, and it is questionable whether they are entitled to the privileges of British subjects. The Oriental Carpet Company, though a British company, is largely owned by Ottoman subjects, and is therefore liable to pay the ordinary taxes on its property instead of enjoying the exemption accorded to the older institutions. In this we followed the example of the other Powers, who are largely interested in such cases.

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3. *British Robbery on the Red Sea Persian Caravan.* See page 11 of the annual report for 1910. Circumstances have not been propitious for the pressing of these claims, and no progress has been made, although it has been decided to present a fresh claim for the stated sum of £T. 1,000 to the Porte in order that a proper record may exist.

4. *Ismail Murder.*—A British subject, Mr. Peter Brailsford, agent for Messrs. MacAlpine & Co., engineers and general merchants, was shot in the window of his house at Ismail on the 21st January, 1912, and died almost immediately. It was known that as the result of certain cases he had to settle with the widow of a Russian subject, and certain cases had to be settled with the heirs of three persons, two of whom had been executed and sentenced, one to death and the other to ten years' imprisonment. The sentences were however quashed by the Court of Cassation, and the case has now been entirely settled by the Criminal Court of Appeal. The Embassy and the Consulate-General at Adrianople both constantly pressed for the punishment of the murderer, and the Vali was strongly reprimanded immediately on hearing of the murder. The Turkish authorities, however, were not to be lacking in energy in dealing with the matter. The question of a money indemnity was raised, but His Majesty's Government decided that in view of the careful examination that the circumstances were subjected to by the Turkish Government, and the fact that the murder had not been committed by any Turkish subject, it was not necessary to press for any pecuniary compensation.

5. *Ottoman Consular Courts.*—This case arises out of the refusal of the Turkish authorities to recognise certain persons, on the ground that they are not Ottoman subjects, to the privileges of the Capitulations. The question of the status of certain persons claiming the protection of British Consular Courts is a difficult one, and has been the subject of long discussion between the Embassy and the Porte. The Embassy's view is that the privileges and immunities of other Consular Courts will not be allowed to persons who, according to Turkish law, are not considered Ottoman subjects, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary. The Ottoman Government, on the other hand, contend that the circumstances were not sufficiently exceptional to justify the Consular Courts in granting protection to the persons in question. In view of the fact that the Ottoman Government have refused to modify their attitude, and the case has become one of considerable importance to a large number of British subjects, the Embassy has been instructed to press for the recognition of the special British privileges claimed by the persons in question. It is not known, however, how many cases of the kind are pending. The question is complicated by the practice which prevails, specially in Smyrna, of transferring to British companies the concessions which the capitulations confer on individuals interested in largely non-British concerns, in which the capitulations confer no rights. Such companies are, as a rule, assessed to taxation by the Turkish authorities on the same basis as British subjects, and it is questionable whether they are entitled to the privileges of British subjects. The Oriental Carpet Company, though a British company, is largely owned by Ottoman subjects, and is therefore liable to pay the ordinary taxes on its property instead of enjoying the exemption accorded to the older institutions. In this we followed the example of the other Powers, who are largely interested in such cases.

6. *Greek Mission Title Deeds.* This very protracted business ended at the beginning of 1913, on the issue of title deeds in the corporate name of the mission of certain property belonging to the Society of Friends in the Kum Kapu quarter of Constantinople. The case was complicated owing to a variety of reasons, including a

7. *Pilgrims' Passports.*—The Embassy has for a couple of years past been attempting to secure a general exemption for Indian and Malay pilgrims arriving at Jeddah from the ordinary Turkish passport regulations, which require all travellers travelling in Turkey to present passports issued by a Turkish consul, but which were formerly not enforced on pilgrims. Failing a general exemption we ask for liberal facilities for indigent pilgrims being given the use without fee. The Porte is reluctant to accord the general exemption, and the attention of its consular

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representatives in cases of negligence has not been very satisfactory. No reply has yet been received to the Embassy's last representation on the subject, made in August 1912.

7. *Evangelical School, Smyrna.* This case is mentioned because it involves a principle affecting charitable and scholastic institutions generally, that while His Majesty's Government are not unprepared to allow new missionary property to be taxed *ratâ* above, in case of Baghdad Hospital, the real property tax ought not to be imposed additional to existing rates where it does not involve an extension of sites to which an existing immunity attaches. In the present instance the directors of the evangelical school wished to build four rooms on a terrace forming part of the existing premises, and the Porte steadfastly refused to entertain the application unless the whole premises were agreed to pay taxes on the four rooms. The building of the rooms does not appear to be urgent, as the matter has been some months under discussion, but, as the subject was pressed by the Embassy to the Porte in February last—

Certain other claims are connected with the territories which the Turkish Government has lost since the beginning of 1912. Whether these claims should be treated as part of the settlement as claims against the Turkish Government to the extent to which they were of foreign origin, or whether they should be referred to the States now responsible for the territories in which they arose, may be a difficult question, but it is very unlikely that they will ever be materially affected. Among them may be mentioned the Ottoman Bank's claim for 1,000,000*l.* against Benghazi (see Turkey No. 1 (1908), p. 73), and the Credit Lyonnais claims mentioned at p. 77 of the report for 1911.

Legislation.

In the session of the first Turkish Parliament under the restored Constitution, which was opened on the 14th December, 1908, and terminated on the 18th January, 1912, it was too soon to take any stock of the output of the session, which the last annual report was content to describe in the hope that it would probably prove to have been incorporated in a new stage in the progress of the matter of legislative method. This progress unfortunately was not effected. The measures which passed into laws and were promulgated during the session and the two sessions of extraordinary duration which followed it were short financial laws providing for supplementary credits and the like. Of the remaining two, one was a law sanctioning the convention with the Oriental Railway Company for the construction of a new line from Uskub Bazaki to Bosna, and for the doubling of the line between Hamzabey and Perlepe. The other was a law on payment by lottery, a highly technical measure designed to check speculation in certain securities in certain places in the Empire, and not of a kind which, by its nature, admits of rigorous performance of the promises to pay made in consideration of the issue.

The new Parliament which assembled after the elections generally recognized to be the most corrupt in the history of the country, met on the 14th April, 1912, and was dissolved by a Royal proclamation on the 17th August, 1912. Its end was brought about by a fresh political convulsion, and the device resorted to in order to dissolve it was an interpretation of the Constitution declaring that the constitution of the Parliament existing at the circumstances which gave rise to the struggle was to settle the dispute between the preceding Parliament and the then Government. This ingenious theory might possibly have been taken to mean that the new Parliament had no power to legislate for other purposes until it had been at work for some time before it. The theory was converted, and as a matter of fact it added to the Statute Book sixteen new measures, several of which were enacted provisional laws promulgated by the executive as urgency measures when Parliament was not sitting both in 1911 and 1912. Six of these seven were financial measures. Of these the most interesting were the law sanctioning the continued operation, subject to certain modifications, of the budget or 1327 (March 1911 to March 1912, during 1328 Mar. 1912 to March 1913) pending the elaboration of the budget proper of 1328, which in the event was not voted until the law of the 18th August, 1912, imposed certain war taxes, the total addition of 27 per cent. to the rate of property or *patente* taxes, a tax of 3 per cent. on all official salaries, an increase in the price of salt, a doubling tax on spirits, &c., for a period not to exceed three years. The non-financial measures were very various. The following are the most interesting:—

1. Two laws conferring the imposition of an import duty of 100 per cent. on Italian goods other than sugar.

2. Two laws sanctioning the renewal until June 1914 of the commercial treaties with Germany, and the renewal for one year of the Turco-Bulgarian convention on commerce and navigation.

3. A law granting a Moratorium in Damascus in consequence of the great fire there.

4. A law safeguarding the municipal voting rights of persons compelled to migrate from quarters destroyed by fire, floods, earthquakes, &c.

5. A law sanctioning the convention with the Oriental Railway Company for the construction of a new branch from Uskub to Gostivar.

The laws mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are inconsiderable in number and even in importance compared with the large number of "provisional" laws which were promulgated between the 18th January and the 19th April, 1912, and which successive Governments have continued to promulgate since the dissolution of the 5th August last.

In theory all these measures have been adopted as being urgent, and subject to the approval of the next Parliament, but in practice, while laws of every kind have been brought into force in this way, Parliamentary sanction has been obtained for very few of those promulgated from January to April 1912, not for all of those promulgated during recess in 1911, and, of course, for none of those promulgated since last August. There are thus upwards of 150 measures belonging to 1912 alone, which are still without any legal sanction, except that of the executive. The large majority are short financial laws providing for unforeseen contingencies, including various measures designed to secure the pacification of Albania and Macedonia. In most cases they authorise supplementary credits, the aggregate amount of which is very considerable. Conspicuous among them are three laws sanctioning additional expenditure by the Ministry of War of about a 100,000,000, 400,000,000 and 650,000,000 piastres, respectively, a total amount not far short of half the ordinary revenue of the Empire for one year!

Some of the non-financial laws promulgated by the executive had a direct political object. Among them are the following:—

1. *Law on Blood Feuds in Albania* (February 1912). This law was a curious attempt to impose on the tribesmen a system of forced reconciliation by official intervention, and forms an interesting sequel to previous provincial law of June 1911, appropriating 50,000*l.* for the buying off of the feuds by paying the necessary blood money out of public funds on behalf of needy persons.

2. *A Law granting a General Amnesty* to all persons implicated in Albanian risings. (Promulgated by the Anti-Committee Government in August 1912.)

3. *Supplementary Press Law.* This provides for a heavy deposit to be made by the responsible managers of newspapers, &c., and prohibiting the publication of articles by military persons and officials on political questions or matters touching military discipline. It was the deposit for newspapers in Constantinople (£T. 500), a very heavy amount in this country. This and the two following laws were all published simultaneously, 1 March 1912.

4. *Supplementary Law on Public Meetings*, authorising the government to prevent meetings in public places in the interests of public order.

5. *Law on Crowds.* This is a kind of Riot Act empowering the administrative authorities to take summary measures for the dispersal of armed or unarmed gatherings of people.

6. *Addition to the Penal Code* imposing heavy penalties on persons inciting soldiers or sailors to offences against military discipline, and more generally on persons inciting the population to illegal or mutually aggressive acts. This and the following were promulgated in the autumn of 1912.

7. *Two Laws prohibiting Military and Naval Persons from taking any part in Politics*, and, while actually serving, from exercising the vote.

8. *Law on the Autonomy of Tripoli and Benghazi.*—This law incorporates the formulæ adopted for domestic consumption at the end of the Turco-Italian War in order to avoid a formal cession to Italy of the African provinces.

9. *Law Amnestying Idriss and his Supporters.*—This law was also incidental to the winding up of the Turco-Italian War, during which Seyyid Idriss had much embarrassed the Government by his activities in the Red Sea province of Asyr.

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It remains to mention the more important of the remaining laws of this category

1. *The Law on Naval Prizes.* This law promulgated four months after the beginning of the Turco-Italian War was undertaken in part to provide a code of rules for the guidance of naval officers and administrative authorities as well as for the Prize Courts whose constitution it contemplates. Some of its provisions assume principles of international law, not yet the subject of general agreement, and some appear to contradict generally recognised rules of law. It is at present under the joint consideration of the foreign missions.

2. *Law on Gendarmerie.* This is a short law defining the relations between the gendarmerie, and the civil and military authorities respectively, and indicating in general terms the nature of the duties of this "armed disciplinary body established in order to assure the security and tranquillity of the country, and the carrying out of the laws and regulations laid down and of the orders of the Government."

3. *Law on Public Accounts.*—The law on public accounts of the 6th June, 1910, was passed at a time when Parliament and public opinion were dominated by the idea of rigorous control over all public financial transactions. The excessive stringency of the law led to many practical difficulties, and created more especially a state of intolerable friction between the Ministry of War and the Treasury. The present law, promulgated in February 1912, gives greater elasticity to the control over expenditure by the central financial authorities and the "Cour des Comptes," and gives especially large measure of relief to the Ministries of War and Marine. It also prolongs the period of grace for winding up the accounts of any given financial year after the year has ended, and provides certain facilities for the payment of debts standing over after the winding up has been completed.

4. *Law on Provincial Administration.* This law promulgated in April 1912, is an attempt to provide a more satisfactory central administration at the headquarters of the various provinces (vilayets) by putting a large patch on the old regulations of 1871. It prescribes in detail the duties of Governors-General, the mode of drawing up the provincial budget, the functions of the elective provincial Council and those of the small advisory Council attached to the Governor-General.

5. *Law on Municipal Taxes in Constantinople.* This law fixes the amount of a variety of taxes intended to remedy the poverty of the municipal administration.

6. *Law on the Destruction of Locusts.*

7. *Law on the Municipal Organisation of Constantinople.* This law, promulgated at the end of 1912 at the instance of the present prefect of the city, reconstructs the municipal administration on lines which bring it more under the control of the Government than it has been since 1908, and centralises the operation of the elective principle by confining it to a single Council for the whole city. The object is to harmonise the administration by curtailing the independence of the various "arrondissements" both of each other and of the State.

The Press.

The Constantinople press as a whole may be said to have languished during 1912. The continuance of the state of siege under both the Committee and the Anti-Committee Governments prevented journalists from going more than a certain length in expressing opinions distasteful to the authorities, especially as the Press Law, promulgated in March 1912, and briefly described in another section of this report, armed the authorities with a formidable weapon, by limiting the facility with which suppressed papers could be at once re-started under a new name. The law, indeed, does not seem to have been applied in all cases, or rigours were found of evading its full vigour, as the device in question was used to some extent, if not as constantly as in 1911. The main Turkish "organs of public opinion," if they can be dignified with that name, continued to be the old established dailies, the "Ikdam" (Anti-Committee), the "Sabah" (non-committal) and the "Tercjumani Hakikat" (Committee), together with two or three others like the "Tanin" (semi-official Committee), the "Tasvir-i-Efkiar" (Committee), and the "Yeni Gazeta" (anti-Committee), which, though established after the renewal of the Constitution have contrived to maintain a more or less continuous existence during the last four years. The complete assertion of Committee supremacy at the beginning of the year, naturally resulted in the all but silencing of Opposition criticism, and the temporary collapse of the Committee six months later produced a correspondingly depressing effect on the Committee organs.

Contending journalists in turn found it wise to hold their tongues, and in some cases even to leave Constantinople. Thus the "Ikdam," the "Yeni Gazeta," the "Tasvir-i-Efkiar," and even the redoubtable "Tanin" itself all had periods of occultation, while the careers of the less-established papers on both sides were still more chequered. Only the "Sabah," edited by an astute Armenian "Vicar of Bray," has weathered every storm so far.

The minor papers just referred to are hardly worth even a passing mention. The "Alemdar," to the staff of which Zeki Bey, murdered in July 1911, belonged, has attacked the Committee with acrimony whenever circumstances have been favourable. The "Tanzimat," representing the opinions of Lutfi Fikri Bey, and the "Ilham," representing those of Ahmed Ferid, late deputy for Kutahia (Independent), have taken a similar line. The Committee has also had various ephemeral supporters besides its more regular organs. Among these may be mentioned the "Hakikat," a politico-religious paper, now defunct, and the "Hami-i-Osmani," which was of some interest as being conducted, under Committee patronage, by the notorious Egyptian Nationalist Sheikh Shawish. In this connection it is interesting to notice the increasing tendency of the Committee papers to strike the pan-Islamic note, a tendency which manifests itself in no particularly in the "Tasvir-i-Efkiar." The Balkan war produced a certain amount of patriotic harmony among all the papers towards the end of the year, and although they varied in their attitude towards the Cabinet's action in regard to the armistice and the peace negotiations, all agreed in decrying the partiality and faithlessness of Europe in its dealings with Turkey.

The numerous papers in languages other than Turkish are widely read by the communities whose languages they use, but are of no special importance without those communities. The French daily papers are all conducted by foreigners, except the "Jeune Turc," which voices the views of the Committee. A measure of servility is a necessary condition of the existence of the others. This condition is most fully fulfilled by the Franco-Italian "Turquie" ("La Liberté" during the Franco-Italian war), which acts as lickspittle to the Committee, and is privileged to reproduce many of the "Fanions" articles on the same morning as that of their appearance in Turkish. The "Stamboul" is a more respectable oriental-asiatic French organ, and an attempt to raise it to a level distinctly higher than that of other "Pan" papers was made last year by an imported Parisian journalist of some capacity, M. Gaulis, but his untimely death after a few months left it very much where it had been. The "Osmanische Lloyd," a French and German, continues to be ably conducted, and makes no pretence of being anything but what it is, a purely German organ. The "Levant Herald" (now edited by a well-to-do Maltese lawyer, with whom journalism is rather a hobby than a trade) and the "Moniteur Oriental" are of even less importance than the rest.

Various papers other than the dailies are published in Turkish and other languages. None of these was of sufficient importance in 1912 to require special attention, but the "Gazette Financière," a weekly edited by a young Maltese, Dr. Riggo, deserves to be mentioned as a useful and well-managed periodical dealing with economic subjects.

Miscellaneous.

The following matters, which in normal times would have called for more detailed treatment, are briefly chronicled for purposes of record —

Jagbub.

In April it was reported from Cairo that Enver Bey would shortly occupy Jagbub with Arab troops, and a little later he actually sent a mission there, which entered into communication with the Senussi sheikh, and is said to have hoisted the Turkish flag. By instructions of His Majesty's Government the Turkish Government were informed that Jagbub belonged to Egypt, that the fact was not open to discussion, and they were, therefore, requested to send orders for the withdrawal of the mission. The claim had already been registered in a note to the Sublime Porte in 1904, and had not then been contested.

The Turks gave no written reply, and in conversations gave only evasive answers; but in September the immediate question was solved by the receipt of the news that the Turkish mission had left Jagbub by order of the Senussi sheikh.

Ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid

On the 30th October, a week before the Fall of Salonica, the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid was secretly put on board the German *Sultanieh* and brought to Constantinople. The *Sultanieh* had been put at the disposal of the Turkish authorities and sent to Salonica for the purpose.

The ex-Sultan has since been lodged in one of the Imperial palaces on the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus. Although considerable excitement was caused by his arrival very little has been heard of him since.

Earthquake.

On the 9th August a severe earthquake caused great damage at the Dardanelles and all along the northern shore of the Sea of Marmora. Many villages were destroyed and thousands of the inhabitants, chiefly Greeks, were rendered homeless. A Mansion House Fund was opened for the sufferers, but did not prove a great success, only some 1,600*l.* being subscribed. The disaster was soon overshadowed by the yet more tragic events of the war.

Greek Merchant ships

Although war with Greece was not declared till the 18th October, on the 1st October orders were issued by the Turkish Government for the detention of all Greek merchant ships in Turkish ports, and steamers were detained at Constantinople, the Dardanelles, Salonica, and Alexandretta. The Greek Minister protested strongly and asked for the support of the other Powers, and as many of the vessels were insured at Lloyd's, His Majesty's Government informed the Sublime Porte that they considered that the Turkish action was contrary to the recognised principles of international law, and that they must reserve all rights in so far as British interests were concerned. The Turkish plea was that the vessels were required for military transport.

On the 15th October the Turkish Government gave notice that Greek vessels in the Black Sea with cargoes for non-Greek ports would be given till the 20th October to pass out. The delay accorded was considered entirely inadequate, and strong representations were made by the embassies of the Powers interested. At first three and then four additional days were conceded, but finally the Sublime Porte agreed to extend the period of grace till the 19th November.

Asiatic Turkey

Kurdistan and Aleppo

The chronic unrest in Eastern Anatolia has during the past year been more acute than usual. Except in the Vilayet of Erzerum the number of murders, robberies, and assaults chronicled by His Majesty's consular officers has considerably exceeded the usual statistical average. The majority of provincial officials have proved inefficient if not worse. The remainder have been hampered in the execution of their good intentions owing to the indifference of the Central Government, who consider the Armenian question of minor importance compared with the other more urgent difficulties, internal and abroad, which they have had to face. The result has been a general increase in the unpopularity of the Government, and even the Tashnakists have turned against the Committee of Union and Progress. The Kurdish brigands alone have had reason to be gratified at the present state of affairs. There has, however, it would seem, been a certain degree of calculation in the attitude of the central authorities. Russian propaganda has of late been making great progress in the provinces adjoining the Russian front among Kurds as well as Armenians, and the Government have been unwilling to take measures against the former for fear of throwing them into the arms of Russia. The Government do not, however, seem to have felt they were under any obligation to protect the latter.

Partly no doubt as a reflex of the Balkan war, there has been in Turkey and elsewhere, particularly in the Caucasus, a growing feeling among Armenians that the moment is nearing for some drastic measures to remedy the plight of the Armenian population of Eastern Anatolia. The Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople resigned

in the autumn as a protest against the attitude of the central authorities, and meetings of Armenians were held in the capital, calling on the Government to pay attention to their grievances. The latter professed concern at this agitation, and discussions, abortive so far took place on the subject of the introduction of reforms in Armenia. Experience has, however, made the Armenians extremely sceptical as to the value of Turkish promises of reform, and there is a marked tendency to consider autonomy under the protection of some Foreign Power as their only hope. There have lately been signs that they would welcome a Russian occupation of the country as less unbearable than their present existence, their mistrust of that Power having gradually diminished as they have observed the prosperity of the Armenian communities in the Caucasus. They argue that Great Britain, who has always been their champion, would not object to their appealing to Russia now that the two countries are regarded almost as allies.

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TURKEY.

Annual Report, 1913.

[79138]

Mr. Beaumont to Sir Edward Grey

December 4, 1914

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual report on Turkey for 1913, which I have prepared at the request of Sir L. Mallet. The report was written almost entirely before the outbreak of the European war, which has delayed its completion.

The sections dealing with the army and navy were contributed by Colonel F. Cunliffe Owen, military attaché, and Commander H. Escombe, of H.M.S. "Imogene."

I have, &c.

H. D. BEAUMONT.

Enclosure.

Annual Report on Turkey for the year 1913.

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I.—General Summary of Events in 1913

1 At the beginning of the year negotiations in London for the conclusion of peace between Turkey and the allied Balkan States were practically at a standstill. The utmost concessions which the Ottoman Government were ready to make were the cession of territory west of the Vilayet of Adrianople, autonomy for Albania and a régime for the islands to be settled with the Powers. By the Greek occupation of Chios on the 2nd January Turkey lost the last of the more important islands of the Archipelago. On the 6th January a collective communication was drafted by the meeting of Ambassadors at London to be addressed to the Ottoman Government, in the hope of preventing the rupture of negotiations which already seemed imminent, pointing out the dangers to which Turkey would be exposed by continuing the war and the advantages which would be gained by the conclusion of peace, when financial assistance would be forthcoming to enable the Government to consolidate their position at Constantinople and in Asia Minor. The Powers further expressed readiness to secure to the islands a strategic importance should the recent unfortunate circumstances which celebrate future target and that on the cession of Adrianople Moslem interests in the mosques and religious property should be protected. On the same date the only further concession which the Turkish delegates declared that they were authorised to agree to was the abandonment of all rights in Crete on condition that no other islands should be demanded.

2 The communication finally made at Constantinople on the 17th January was in a sense what might be called an ultimatum, intimating that the Powers would no longer take any steps to save Turkey from the results of her action if she persisted in refusal to listen to their advice. It was open to Turkey also to refer the fate of the Ægean islands to the decision of the Powers.

3 Meanwhile the Turks were preparing for a final effort to turn the chances of war against Greece. On the 10th January the "Medjidieh," "Assari-Tewfik," and other vessels of the Turkish fleet left the Dardanelles. No engagement then took place, but it was believed that the movement was carried out by the small cruiser "Hamidieh" which on the 12th met with the Greek ships. On the 15th the Ottoman troopship "Marmora" arrived at Syra with the Greek transport "Macedonia," a converted Trans-Atlantic liner, which was coaling. A number of shells were fired into the transport as she lay helpless at her moorings in the harbour, into the town, causing some damage. The Macedonia's engine-room was struck by a shell, when the steamer "headed

4 On the 17th occurred the only serious naval engagement of the war. The Turkish fleet consisted of the "Messoudieh," Mukaddem," "Assari-Tewfik" and the ex-German battleships "Turgut Reis" and "Barbarossa." The first named both suffered severely, but were able to retire to the Dardanelles. The Barbarossa" had one turret badly damaged, and the losses in men were 4 officers and 37 men killed and 7 officers and 91 men wounded. The Greek ships were practically untouched.

5 The armistice for which the *démarche* was the preliminary, the struggle for naval supremacy having been decided in favour of Greece.

6 On the 22nd January a Grand Council met at the Palace of Dolma Bagtche to discuss the reply to be given to the collective note presented on the 17th. The general sense of the proceedings was in favour of a peaceful solution. In the almost desperate situation of Turkish affairs it seemed hopeless to continue the struggle. On the following day the Ministers met at the Porte to draft the reply to the Ambassadors' note in its final form. It amounted to a submission to the Powers in hope the question of Adrianople, the islands and in return for those concessions and assurances were to be asked for with regard to future financial support and the eventual abolition of the Capitulations.

7 While the Cabinet were sitting Enver Bey, accompanied by Talaat Bey and some forty armed men of whom apparently only four were officers, appeared at the Porte demanding the overthrow of the Cabinet which was preparing to make so ignominious a peace in the name of the Powers. Nazim Pasha, Minister of War, came out of the council chamber to enquire the reason for the disturbance. He ordered the intruders to retire. Enver Bey and his companions pressed on to the door of the room where the Cabinet was assembled, when Nafiz Bey the Assistant Aide-de-camp of the Grand Vizier threw his revolver, killing one of the persons standing near Enver. The shots were returned, and in the affray which followed Nazim Pasha, his Aide-de-camp, Captain Tewfik Bey Kobrizli were killed and Nafiz Bey was mortally wounded. The conspirators forced their way into the council chamber and called

upon the Cabinet to resign. Thus Kiamil Pasha, the Grand Vizier, refused to do without the express orders of the Sultan. Enver dictated a form of resignation. With this he returned to the Palace and returned from His Majesty the necessary authorisation and returned with one of the Imperial Chamberlains, to whom Kiamil Pasha duly handed over his resignation of office. Towards 8 p.m. Mahmoud Shefket Pasha, whose absence from the Council on the previous day had been remarked, arrived at the Porte and an Imperial Decree appointing him Grand Vizier was read. The ex-Ministers had been kept prisoners at the Porte during the interval but most of them were released and permitted to return to their houses before night. During the course of the evening several arrests were made, among the latest of the victims of the "Ittihad" and Ismail Hakki Bey ex-deputy of Gumuldjina. The offices of the "Osmanli" and "Ikdam" were closed, and a number of the adherents of the late Government sought refuge in the embassies. None of the actual leaders of the *coup d'état* were included in the new Ministry formed by Mahmoud Shefket Pasha, the most prominent members of which were Prince Said Halim President of the Council of State Hali Bey, Minister of Evkaf, and Djelal Bey, Minister of Commerce.

8 The immediate result of the *coup d'état* was the breaking off of negotiations by the Balkan delegates on the 29th January.

9 One of the first tasks of the new Ministry was that of preparing a reply to the collective *démarche*. This was presented on the 30th January. It agreed to the cession of the district of Vardar up to the right bank of the Maritza, retaining possession of the part situated on the left bank which contains the mosques, tombs and other places with historical and religious associations. With regard to the islands it was stated that, while some from their proximity to the Straits were necessary for the defence of Constantinople, others being an integral part of the Turkish Asiatic possessions were of vital importance to Asia Minor. The Porte declared itself ready to consider the question of a mutual retrocession with the Powers of the islands the fate of which depended upon the eventual fate of Crete. The note expressed a hope that the Powers would show regard for the right of Turkey to establish in accordance with custom and to fix the rates of the Ottoman customs as Ottoman subjects and that meanwhile they should give their assent to the immediate increase of the customs duties. It further urged that the Powers should eventually agree to the abolition of the Capitulations. It also intimated that the question of pressing the Capitulations in other words part of Adrianople was to be ceded at the expense of the Powers.

10 The note although not unfavourably received by the Italian and Austrian Governments, which had already agreed in principle to the claims put forward, made it clear that hostilities would not await its receipt. On the 3rd February, at the expiration of the armistice concluded between Bulgaria and Servia, the bombardment of Adrianople began again. On the 7th February Turkish delegates in London demanded the intervention of the Powers, but were informed that this was impossible as the Porte agreed to the cession of Adrianople. On the same day the Turkish troops under Fehmi Izzet Pasha numbering between 50,000 and 60,000 attempted to advance from the Chataldja lines, were repulsed by the Bulgarians. In the course of these operations the Assari-Tewfik ran aground at Kuchuk Chekmedje and became a total wreck. Preparations were made for sending an expedition by sea to the north coast of the Sea of Marmora and about 20,000 men were eventually embarked. Weather conditions were unfavourable and the disembarkations were effected at Eregli and Chirkeui, from which port the transports the Turkish force was repulsed by the Bulgarians entrenched at Bulair and eventually returned to Constantinople. A small force was also landed at Pourma on the Black Sea but was driven back to the ships with considerable losses. The ill success of these operations and the financial difficulties in which the Government found themselves increased their anxiety to make peace. The extent to which they were now ready to make concessions is shown by the *pro memoria* communicated to His Majesty's Government on the 19th February. The Porte announced its willingness to accept a frontier line drawn from San Stefano on the Black Sea to the Maritza, leaving Dedeagatch and Baba Eski to Turkey, with the understanding that the fortifications of Adrianople and Kirk Kilisse should be dismantled. It reserved first however its refusing to take into consideration any scheme for the safety and retained the observations it had drawn up in its previous note for the solution of the islands question. The garrison of Adrianople was to be allowed to march out with the honours of war, taking with it arms and war material. Finally, on the 28th, the Porte abandoning all hope of

obtaining an acceptance of even these conditions the Turkish Ambassador was instructed to accept without any qualification the mediation of the Powers.

11. Meanwhile the Bulgarians were pressing forward preparations for a final assault on Adrianople. Having no suitable siege-guns they applied to their Servian allies, who provided twenty-six heavy Creusot siege guns, in addition to the 50,000 troops already with the investing army.

12. On the 6th March Essad Pasha, with almost the entire garrison of Janina of 20,000 men, capitulated to the Greek army under the Crown Prince Constantine, Aziz Riza Pasha with 3,000 or 4,000 men having previously withdrawn northwards.

13. The Turkish cruiser "Hamidieh," whose sortie from the Dardanelles has already been referred to, and whose exploits had been heard of at Malta and Alexandria, appeared off San Giovanni di Medua on the 12th March and succeeded in sinking two and damaging a third Greek transports which had brought Servian troops to assist the Montenegrins at the siege of Scutari. Durazzo was also bombarded, but without any losses to the small Servian garrison. Escaping the Greek destroyers sent to pursue her the "Hamidieh" again sought refuge in the Red Sea, and remained there until the end of the war.

14. On the 14th March the allies replied to the offer of mediation by the Powers. They accepted the following conditions which amounted to a refusal, viz.:

(1.) The basis of negotiations for delimitating the new Turkish frontier was to be a line from the Sea of Marmora, east of Rodosto to Cape Malatra, south-east of Mesa.
(2.) The Egean Islands to be ceded.
(3.) Cession of Islands in the Adriatic to Italy.
(4.) An indemnity.

15. On the 15th March Samos was occupied by the Greeks without opposition, the Turkish garrison, which had been sent there contrary to the Organic Statutes of December 1832, having been withdrawn just before the war.

16. On the 19th March a band of thirty-six Cretans landed on the little island of Castelrizzo, 2 miles from the mainland opposite Rhodes, seized the Government buildings and made the few Turkish officials prisoners. The island was, however, soon occupied by Greek regular forces and the expedition, although it had started from the Piraeus was heavily convoyed by the Greek Government.

17. On the 24th March a general assault was delivered by the combined Bulgarian and Servian forces against Adrianople, and by noon on the 25th March all the forts on the east front were carried by assault, under the orders of Sarafoff Pasha, with the whole garrison of 50,000 men, who were forced at once to capitulate. The Turks are stated to have lost about 10,000 men in the Bulgarian and Servians 7,000 men killed and wounded.

18. At the same time fighting was going on in front of the Chatalja lines as a result of which the Turkish advanced troops were driven back to the main army, but an attempt to press on the attack on the 20th March failed. The "Hamidieh," "Barbarossa," and "Peyk-i-Shevket" then assisted the Turkish left. The total losses in front of the lines are said to have been 5,000 killed and wounded on both sides.

19. Though Scutari was still holding out the fall of Adrianople marked the end of the war, which had only been continued in the vain hope that this fortress might be retained. On the 21st March Tewfik Pasha, Turkish Ambassador in London, communicated to His Majesty's Government a memorandum urging the acceptance of the Enos-Baton Medua line instead of a direct line from Enos to Midia proposed by Russia, which would, he declared, place Turkey in a position of "insurmountable difficulties," and demanded the total nullity of Turkey to pay an indemnity. Nothing was said about the islands.

20. On the same day a communication was made to the Porte by the six Ambassadors, stating the terms which the Powers would propose to the allies:

(1.) Enos-Midia frontier,
(2.) Question of islands to be left to the Powers,
(3.) Turkey to disinterest herself in Crete,
(4.) Powers not in favour of a demand for an indemnity.

These terms were accepted by the Porte on the 1st April without any qualification, but on the 30th April a further communication was addressed to Sir E. Grey, stating that the Italian Government favoured the retention of the islands by Turkey, and expressing the hope that His Majesty's Government would adhere to this point of view.

21. A communication, identic to that made to the Porte, was also addressed to the allies. Their reply, delivered the 5th April, contained reserves to the following effect:

(1.) The Enos-Midia line to serve as a base for negotiations and not as the definite frontier,
(2.) Ægean islands to be ceded,
(3.) Previous communication of the proposed frontiers of Albania,
(4.) Demand for a war-rate to be accepted in principle, but the amount to be fixed by an International Financial Commission on which the allies were to be represented.

22. On the 11th April in view of the possibility of a Bulgarian advance on Constantinople the meeting of Ambassadors in London took into consideration the question raised by the French Ambassador, of sending an international fleet to Constantinople Commander, to prevent military operations in the Gallipoli peninsula and the northern shores of the Sea of Marmora and Bosphorus and to secure freedom of navigation in the Straits. The Russian Ambassador opposed the proposal, as His Majesty's Government and the other Ambassadors reserved their decision.

23. A joint communication was made on the 14th April by the representatives of the Great Powers at the capitals of the allied States in answer to their note of the 5th April, as to point 1. Enos-Midia line as basis of negotiations, which was offered. Opposition (of minor importance) to certain details were to be studied, except with regard to certain of the islands not specified. On point 2 the Powers agreed to recommend that a decision as to the Ægean be left over until after the frontier of Albania should be settled, and the Adriatic islands should be left to the Powers. With regard to point 3 the Powers stated that the question of a definite line could be left to the International Financial Commission, which was to sit in Paris but that immediate explanations could be given of the attitude which they would take up towards it. These bases were eventually accepted, but with the fall of Scutari on 23rd April, which was due to pressure put on Montenegro by the Powers, all opposition to the cession of that town was withdrawn by the Montenegrin forces and handed over to the commission of officers of the Powers established at Antivari.

24. On the fall of Scutari, the Powers invited Turkey to send representatives and to name a meeting place for the signature of peace, and the suspension of hostilities between Bulgaria and Turkey was prolonged to the 6th May.

25. On the 1st May Sir Edward Grey handed a draft treaty of peace to the Turkish Ambassador in London, and on the next day the text was officially communicated to the Balkan Monster. On the 3rd May the Porte agreed to accept the invitation of the Powers to send plenipotentiaries to Congress in London as the place where the plenipotentiaries should meet. The Turkish delegates were Osman Nizamy Pasha, Rifaat Effendi, Minister of Public Instruction, and Reshid Bey, Legal Adviser to the Porte. They left for London on the 6th May.

26. The draft treaty of peace was accepted by the Turkish Government, who reserved only a request that the Great Powers should be represented on the Commission for the delimitation of the new Turco-Bulgarian frontier, that among the questions to be referred to arbitration should be that of Moslem property, and that under "juridical" arrangements Article 7 should not prevent the re-establishment of the *status quo* before the war, and not new rights conferred by the Capitulations on the subjects of the Great Powers. This was a point on which the Greek Government, which objected to any rights enjoyed by Greek subjects before the war of 1897 being restored, except in the case of some adjustments, sought to treaty. Efforts were also made by the Greek and Servian Governments to obtain the omission of the words "Allied Sovereigns" from Articles 3 and 5 of the draft treaty which would have only Turkey and by the cession of the Powers with regard to the delimitation of Albania and the fate of the Ægean islands, on Mount Athos. The Servian Government also wished to modify Article 7 of the treaty guarantees for a free port in Albania, and free communication and intercourse with that port.

27. All these objections were already swept away. The allies were obliged to fall in line by the action of Sir Edward Grey, and the treaty was signed as originally drafted on the 30th May.

28. It consists of eight articles, of which the most important are

Article 2 —Turkey cedes to the allied Sovereigns all territory to the west of a line drawn from Enos on the Ægean Sea to Midia on the Black Sea, with the exception of Albania

Article 3 —Turkey and the allies submit the question of the delimitation of Albania and all other questions concerning Albania to the Six Great Powers.

Article 4 —Crete ceded

Article 5 —Turkey and the allies entrust the decision of the fate of all the Turkish islands in the Ægean except Crete and of the Peninsula of Mount Athos, to the Great Powers

Article 6 —All financial questions to be submitted to an international commission in Paris.

Article 7 —Questions of prisoners of war, jurisdiction nationality, and commerce to be settled by special conventions

29 The Peace delegates continued to meet after the signature of the treaty, and an attempt was made to conclude further agreements on some of the points left open by it, viz exchange of prisoners, amnesty for [illegible] committed during the war, the nationality of the Mussulman inhabitants of the ceded territory, the re-establishment of postal and telegraphic [illegible], and the maintenance in force of treaties existing before the war, [illegible] remaining [illegible] of special conventions relating to Mussulman [illegible]. It was, however, soon seen that a general settlement was [illegible] possible, and the [illegible] broke up on the 9th [illegible], all these questions being reserved for separate and direct negotiations between Turkey and each of the Balkan States

30 The [illegible] to settle financial questions composed of representatives of the Six Great Powers and of the five belligerents, sat in Paris from the 17th June to the [illegible] July, but did not come to any [illegible] on the points then submitted to it

31 These points were What, if any, proportion of the Ottoman Debt should be assumed by the [illegible] States on account of the territory annexed by them, and what, if any, War indemnity could be claimed from Turkey

32 With regard to the [illegible] question the Turkish delegation refused to [illegible] except [illegible] repatriation of [illegible] refugees, the seizure, before the war, of Servian waggons [illegible] at Salonica, losses [illegible] by the Turkish [illegible] inhabitants of [illegible] Servian subjects [illegible] expulsions, &c [illegible] of the [illegible] Greek merchant ships before the declaration of war. The latter question was subsequently [illegible] of the Treaty of Peace with Greece [illegible]

33 [illegible] the Turkish [illegible] the Ottoman [illegible] reparations calculated [illegible] the system [illegible] of revenue pledged [illegible] the case [illegible] Decree of Mo[illegible] revenue was [illegible] proportion [illegible] of the revenue [illegible] of [illegible] loans and advances, [illegible] which they claimed should be assumed by the [illegible]. They further urged that a settlement should be effected by the payment of a [illegible] sum on the principle followed by Italy after the war in Tripoli, when the Debt Administration received [illegible] in compensation for the loss of revenue in the territory annexed.

34 The Balkan States on the other hand contended that they could only be asked to make good any deficiency in the revenue assigned to Turkey's creditors by which the [illegible] interests might be prejudiced. As the combined total of all the assigned revenues [illegible] territory which [illegible] Turkish [illegible] more than sufficient to meet the existing charges secured on them, the Commission of this principle would, in fact, relieve the Balkan States of the obligation of assuming any portion of the debt

35. According to the different methods of [illegible] adopted by the delegates of the Powers, the share of the nominal capital of the debt which would fall to the allies amounted to between £ T 22,500,000 and £ T 24,000,000.

36. The only other incident connected with the war deserving of mention is the annexation on the 12th May by Austria-Hungary of the island of Ada Kaleh in the Danube opposite Orsova. It had been taken from the Turks by a Hungarian army in 1716, but was reconquered by the former in 1738, and though it had been held in military occupation by Austria-Hungary since 1878, the island had always been regarded as forming part of the Turkish Empire, and even sent a deputy to the Turkish Parliament. The Turkish Governor, Sherif Edir Bey, refused to sign the protocol of annexation and retired under protest

37 At the end of May, Kiamil Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, arrived at Constantinople from Egypt, where he had taken refuge after the *coup d'état* of the 23rd January. He had intended going to Smyrna, but the steamer on which he came was prevented from calling there. He was kept under the strictest police surveillance at the house of his son, and was compelled to leave by the first [illegible] for Smyrna [illegible] left shortly afterwards for Cyprus, his birthplace, where he died a few months later at the age of 84

38 On the 11th June Mahmud Shefket Pasha, the Grand Vizier, while driving [illegible] Ministry of War, was attacked by a number of armed men [illegible]. His successor, appointed two days later, was Prince Said Halim, President [illegible]. His successor [illegible] who had come to Constantinople [illegible], a cousin of the Khedive of Egypt, [illegible] A number of arrests were [illegible] after the revolution of 1908. A number of arrests were [illegible] the death of [illegible] conspiracy [illegible] act of vengeance for the death of [illegible] Nazim [illegible] The appointment of Prince Said Halim [illegible] *Conseil d'Etat* had necessitated some changes in the Cabinet. Talaat Bey, who since the [illegible] of the [illegible] Minister of the Interior. Izzet Pasha an [illegible] and Progress became Minister of the Interior [illegible] the Committee [illegible] was made Minister [illegible] Djavid Bey, also a member of the Committee of Union and Progress succeeded Prince Said Halim as President of the Council, and Osman Nizami Pasha [illegible] Mahmud Shefket Pasha gave the [illegible] The assassination of Mahmud Shefket Pasha gave the new Ministry [illegible] proceedings [illegible] Some 500 persons were deported to Sinope, [illegible] Twelve [illegible] of Mahmud [illegible] among them [illegible] were condemned to death [illegible]

39 [illegible] hostilities broke out between Bulgaria on one side and Servia, Greece and Montenegro [illegible] to be [illegible] a few days later the [illegible] Servian and Greek frontiers, and [illegible] Bulgaria was pressed [illegible] further [illegible] of the Mussulman population [illegible] Although assurances were given that [illegible] would [illegible] for the [illegible] Roumania was [illegible] the 14th July, and [illegible] capturing the Bulgarian Turkish army [illegible] direction [illegible] as far as [illegible] Enver Bey entered Adrianople [illegible] to Kirk Kilisse, which they Mustapha Pasha, where the railway station was [illegible] further [illegible] the [illegible] reached on the [illegible] the Ottoman army, while irregulars [illegible] pressed [illegible] Kuleli-Kavak, 15 miles north-west of the Maritza

40 His Majesty's Government took a leading part in the protests which were [illegible] against this violation of the recently-signed Treaty of London, and warned the Porte [illegible] of the risks which they were running of provoking [illegible] the intervention of another Power. It soon became evident, however, that none of the Powers was ready to intervene singlehanded and in these circumstances they were compelled to acquiesce in the accomplished fact by which Turkey, almost without [illegible], regained 16,000 square kilometres of lost territory and 770,000 former Ottoman subjects. With the collapse of Bulgaria and the [illegible] of [illegible] Treaty of Bucharest [illegible] of danger of further complications was removed [illegible] the Porte [illegible] extent [illegible] by [illegible] of the 21st August, a formal and categorical assurance that Turkey had no intention of

going beyond the zone indicated in a note communicated to the Powers on the 20th July, viz., the line of the Maritza to Adrianople. Bulgaria, despairing of further help from the Powers, at the end of August finally decided to enter into direct pourparlers with Turkey. On the 3rd September General Savof, M. Natchovitch, and M. Tosheff arrived at Constantinople, and on the 29th September a definitive Treaty of Peace was signed between the two countries, and came into force immediately after signature.

41. *Article* I. defines the frontier starting from the mouth of the River Rezvaja, south of the monastery of St. John on the Black Sea to the old Bulgarian frontier 4 kilom. east of Kuklidzha. It then follows the former boundary for about 70 miles to Balabanlar, 8 kil. north-west of Adrianople, whence it is drawn south to Derman Deri, then south and south-east to the Maritza River, leaving Ortakeui to Bulgaria and Demotika to Turkey. It crosses the Maritza, cutting the railway north-west of Germanli. From Ghiritli it goes south, striking the Maritza again to the west of Mandra. It then follows the thalweg of this river to the point where it separates into two branches near Karaagatch, whence it follows the thalweg of the right branch to its mouth in the Ægean.

Article 2 provides for evacuation of the occupied territory and for demobilisation.

Article 3 for the re-establishment of diplomatic, postal and railway communication.

Article 4 for the application during one year of the Commercial Treaty of the 19th February, 1901, and the Convention and Declaration of the 21st December, 1909, and for the negotiation of a new commercial treaty.

Article 5 for the exchange of prisoners of war.

Article 6 for the amnesty or pardon of all persons who took part in hostilities or who were compromised in political events.

Article 7. Subjects of territory ceded to Bulgaria are allowed to opt for Ottoman nationality within four years, and if they are exempted from military service. After opting for Ottoman nationality they must, at the end of this period, quit Bulgarian territory, leaving their property to be administered by agents.

Article 8. Mussulman Bulgarian subjects to enjoy the same civil and political rights as other Bulgarian subjects. Mussulman communities to retain their ecclesiastical organisation and their property to be respected.

Article 9.—Bulgarian communities in Turkey to enjoy the same rights as other Christian communities. Bulgarian Ottoman subjects are not to be disturbed in the possession of their property, and those who left to their homes are to be allowed to return.

Article 10. All rights acquired and juridical facts and the deeds issued by Ottoman authorities previous to the present to be respected.

Article 11. The right to hold real estate, in virtue of Turkish law, in the ceded territory to be recognised without any restriction.

Article 12. Vakoufs and Vasvat tithes in the ceded territory to be respected.

Article 13. Private property of the Sultan to be respected.

Article 14. Cemeteries to be respected.

Article 15. Free circulation of the subjects of each State in the territory of the other.

Article 16. The Bulgarian Government to take over the rights, charges, and obligations connected with the "Oriental Railways Company" in that part of the line which passes through the ceded territory.

Article 17. Differences as to the interpretation of articles 11, 12, 14, and 16 of the treaty to be referred to the Hague Arbitration Tribunal.

The treaty has four annexes:—

(1.) Relating to the demarcation of the new frontier,
(2.) Concerning the rights and privileges of Mussulman communities and Muftis throughout Bulgaria,
(3.) For the terms of reference to arbitration at The Hague, and
(4.) Providing for the maintenance of existing organisations connected with transit by train and by the River Maritza, until the construction of a railway connecting Bulgaria with the Ægean.

The treaty was ratified on the 8th October.

42. Negotiations for the definitive treaty of peace with Greece did not proceed so rapidly and smoothly. Ghalib Bey, Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy at Berlin, who

had previously been for a long time in charge of the Ottoman Legation in Greece, arrived at Athens early in September. There were, however, indications that the Turkish Government, having concluded peace with Bulgaria, for a while seriously contemplated the renewal of war with Greece. A large force amounting to between 150,000 and 200,000 men was kept under arms in Thrace, while troops were still being collected in Anatolia and transport animals requisitioned. Pressure was brought to bear, particularly by the French Government, which made the conclusion of peace a condition of any financial assistance, and finally the intervention of Roumania, through M. Take Jonescu, was a decisive influence in bringing about an agreement.

43. The chief difficulty was the desire of the Greek Government to go back to the *status quo* before 1897. On this point Greece was compelled to give way, and article 2 of the treaty, which was signed on the 14th November at Athens, provides for the re-establishment of all treaties in force at the date of the outbreak of hostilities.

44. Other articles of the treaty are:—

Article 1.—Re-establishment of diplomatic relations and of the right to appoint Ottoman consuls in the ceded territory at places "where there are already agents of foreign countries," or other places where the Hellenic Government is willing to accept them.

Article 3. Complete amnesty for political offences connected with the war.

Article 4.—Ottoman subjects resident in the ceded territory may opt for Turkish nationality within three years of the signature of peace, and Mussulmans will not during that period be liable for military service, but in the event of their so opting they must leave Greek territory.

Article 5.—Rights and titles acquired from competent Ottoman authorities up to the occupation of the ceded territory to be respected, without prejudice to decisions which may be taken by the International Financial Commission in Paris.

Article 6.—Private property of persons opting for Ottoman nationality to be respected.

Article 7. Property of the Sultan and Civil List to be maintained and respected. Disputes with regard to them to be referred to The Hague for arbitration.

Article 8.—Prisoners of war to be exchanged within a month, claims in connection with them to be referred to arbitration at The Hague.

Article 9. Ships seized by the Ottoman Government before the declaration of war to be immediately returned to their owners, and claims in connection with their detention to be referred to arbitration.

Article 10.—The interpretation of the protocol of the surrender of Smyrna to be referred to The Hague for arbitration, it not having been possible to come to an agreement as to whether the terms of the surrender included the abandonment of the arms of the garrison.

Article 11.—The civil, political, and religious rights of Mussulmans in the annexed territory to be scrupulously respected. Muftis to retain jurisdiction in questions relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, &c., their decisions being executed by the Hellenic authorities.

Article 12.—Vakoufs to be administered by Mussulman communities, the system only to be modified after fair indemnity payable in advance, Vasouf tithes being suppressed, the Hellenic Government to subvention hospitals, religious and charitable institutions dependent for their existence on these tithes.

Article 13.—Cemetries to be respected.

Article 14. Questions relating to the rights, charges, and obligations connected with railways in the ceded territory to be referred to the Financial Commission in Paris.

Article 15. The two countries agree to uphold ("maintenir") the provisions of the Treaty of London, including the stipulations of article 5 relative to entrusting the decision as to the fate of the Ægean islands and Mount Athos to the Six Great Powers.

M. Paris, who negotiated the Treaty of Athens and is now Greek Minister in Constantinople, states that this last provision was added at the suggestion of the Turkish delegates, and that as originally worded it was a still more formal agreement to abide by the decision of the Powers which the Turkish Government undoubtedly thought would be in their favour.

Three protocols are annexed to the treaty :—

(1.) Providing that natives of the ceded territories domiciled outside the Ottoman Empire shall be allowed six months in which to opt for Greek nationality,
(2.) Referring the question of the ownership of certain specified property of the Turkish Government, including mines, concessionary rights, and irrigation works, in the towns and vilayets of Salonica and Janina, to The Hague Tribunal, neither Government being ready to renounce its claims to this property, and
(3.) Dealing with religious buildings, mosques converted into churches, church property, and the rights and privileges of Mufts in the ceded territory. The Greek Government agree to build a mosque at Athens and four others in poor villages where required.

The treaty was ratified on the 1st December.

45. It was not until November that the negotiations with Servia began at Constantinople, and little or no progress was made by M. Pavlovitch, the Servian delegate, during the year under review.

46. The following figures show the approximate gains of territory and population by the Balkan States and Albania at the expense of Turkey as finally apportioned by the Treaty of Bucharest :—

	Area of Territory gained.	Population.
	Square kilos.	
Albania	32,000	800,000
Bulgaria	26,247	705,546
Greece	41,111	1,620,000
Montenegro	9,317	230,000
Servia	30,916	1,210,000
Total	139,791	4,649,546

47. Immediately after the *coup d'état*, and while hostilities were still in progress with the Balkan allies, the Government of Mahmoud Shefket Pasha entered into negotiations with the British, French, and German Governments to obtain their consent to—

(1.) An increase of 4 per cent. in the customs duties, bringing them up to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*,
(2.) The eventual application of a specific tariff on the above basis,
(3.) The application of the tobacco (patent) tax to foreigners,
(4.) The abolition of foreign post offices, and
(5.) The eventual abolition of the Capitulations.

48. Hakki Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, was charged with the negotiations in London, and arrived there towards the end of February, Djavid Bey having charge of the negotiations with Germany and France, which were, in the case of the latter also carried on concurrently in Constantinople.

49. The concessions asked for in return for our consent are referred to under the head of "Relations with Great Britain." An agreement on most of the questions discussed was reached on the 29th July. The agreement provided for the formation of a joint commission of two members, one British and one Ottoman, for controlling and improving the navigation of the Shatt-el-Arab, and for the grant of a concession for the exclusive navigation of the Tigris and Euphrates to an Ottoman company in which half the capital was to be British, with a British President of the Council of Administration, and half Turkish, Germany participating to the extent of 40 per cent. of the Turkish share, or 20 per cent. of the whole share capital.

50. Declarations annexed to this agreement provide—

(1.) For the commission taking charge of the interests of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and
(2.) For the delimitation of the Persian frontier from Haouize to the sea.

51. A second agreement was also signed on the same day :—

(1.) Relating to the status and boundaries of Koweit as an "autonomous kaza of the Ottoman Empire",
(2.) Relating to the status and boundaries of El Katr and of the Ottoman sanjak of Nedjd, the Ottoman Government renouncing all claims to the Peninsula of El Katr,
(3.) Relating to the status of Bahrein, to which the Ottoman Government renounce all claims, and
(4.) Relative to the policing, buoying, and sanitary regulation of the Persian Gulf by Great Britain.

A secret declaration is added to the second agreement further defining the status of Koweit, by which the Ottoman Government agree to withdraw all military and civil officials from Koweit and El Katr and to pay the Sheikh of Bahrein a sum of 1,000*l.* in compensation for his renunciation of all rights to the Island of Zahnoume.

52. In return, His Majesty's Government agreed to the five points submitted by Turkey, with certain reservations in regard to the eventual abolition of the Capitulations.

53. A further proviso was added that "His Majesty's Government attach very great importance to a satisfactory arrangement in regard to the Mesopotamian Oil Concession," without, however, this being made an absolute condition of putting the agreements into force.

54. An exchange of notes on the same day provides that the above agreements shall not come into force until certain questions connected with them have been settled between the Ottoman Government and the Bagdad Railway Company, and until an Imperial firman has been issued by the Turkish Government respecting the borrowing powers of Egypt.

Negotiations with France.

55. Considerable progress was made with the negotiations conducted by Djavid Bey with France, and it was only financial reasons connected with the issue of a large loan on the Paris market which prevented their final conclusion before the end of the year.

56. A railway and public works agreement was signed at Paris on the 11th September by M. Pichon and Djavid Bey. The following is a list of the concessions obtained or promised :—

(1.) Confirmation of contracts made with French companies (*a*) for a line between Hawza and Castamouni to meet the German line from Boulou; (*b*) a branch line from Sonje-Ser, towards Yozgad, as far as the watershed of the Yesil Irmak and the Kizil Irmak, and (*c*) a line from Trebizond to Pekeroj,
(2.) In case the Anatolian Railway Company do not make use of their concession to extend their line to Boulou and beyond for 60 kilom., the transfer of this concession to the French company,
(3.) An option for a line Kharput Ergani-Maden, with extension to Bitlis and Van,
(4.) A concession for harbour works at Heraclea and Ineboli and a railway from Heraclea to the Hawza Castamouni line,
(5.) The reversion of the National Bank's concession for harbour works at Trebizond and Samsoun,
(6.) A concession for the extension of the Aleppo Railway to Ramleh,
(7.) A working arrangement between the Damascus Hamah Railway Company and the Deraa Caffr line and the appointment of a French director-in-chief of the latter railway,
(8.) Postponement of the date of purchase of the Damascus-Hamah Railway to 1943,
(9.) Extension of the concession of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway, and a promise of good offices to secure a tariff agreement with the Afouleh-Jerusalem Railway,
(10.) Concession of harbour works at Jaffa, Tripoli, and Caifa,
(11.) Construction of a port or quay at Djounieh or Nahr-el-Kelb, of depth and upon, to be given to the Beyrouth Harbour Company,

(12.) An extension of five years of the time allowed for the completion of the tramways lines conceded to the Lebanon Tramway Company

(13.) An extension of the Aleppo line to Meskeneh, which, however, the Ottoman Government consider unnecessary not to be made without agreement with the Damascus-Hamah Railway Company

57. The above agreement was arrived at after an understanding with Germany, which, in addition to arrangements for breaking up French and German lines, and tariff rates on them, provided for the Ottoman Bank (or France) retroceding to the Deutsche Bank its financial participation in the Bagdad Railway and taking in exchange £T 3,000,000 advanced by the Deutsche Bank to the Ottoman Government in 1911, secured on the Customs receipts of Constantinople as well as an option on the unissued balance of this loan. The understanding further provided for collaboration in furnishing financial assistance, with the ulterior object of providing revenue for guaranteeing the railways to be built.

58. On the 18th December three agreements were signed at Constantinople:

(1.) For regularising the position of French religious, charitable, and scholastic institutions in Turkey which were assured of continued immunity from taxation, subject to the rule that exemption from real estate taxes applies only to property owned by the institution as distinguished from property rented by them. The exemption extends to outhouses, gardens, &c., but not to revenue-producing real estate. New institutions are to enjoy the same privileges as, if the Porte has grounds for objecting to their creation, it may do so before the application with a six months' statement of the reasons. If the application remains unanswered for longer than this period, consent is assumed. On the other hand the French Government agree that new institutions shall only enjoy these privileges of 25 per cent. of the pupils or patients are admitted gratuitously.

(2.) Relating to French subjects or persons, for whose persons and effects in the Turkish courts. Henceforth it is provided that persons shall be returned to the French consular prison. Criminal persons remain in Turkish prisons, but the right is secured that French consular authorities shall have free access to them at all times. The scope of the agreement is extended to the cases of Tunis and Morocco.

(3.) The third part of the agreement contains eight preliminary articles. It supplements a previous arrangement by which liabilities arising from before the Revolution of July 1908, included under the Floating Debt as established subsequently are to be dealt with by the International Financial Commission in Paris. All other claims prior to 1908, or subsequent to 1908, relating to the service of the Sultan Abdul Hamid, the dismissal of employés of the Holy Law Courts, the Civil Service Law, and events of the 13th April 1909, at Constantinople are to be submitted to a mixed Commission composed of two representatives selected by the French Ambassador and two representatives of the Turkish Government. Should this Commission fail to agree upon a decision, it is to be submitted to The Hague Tribunal. The Turkish Government is to carry out the decisions of the Mixed Commission by payment of orders as pass ref. to the French Embassy which will distribute the sums awarded, after deduction of 10 per cent., in addition to office fees, to meet the cost of procedure.

Negotiations with Germany.

59. Direct negotiations were carried on at Berlin during several months by David Bey, with a view to obtaining the consent of the German Government to the increase of 4 per cent. in the Customs duties, the abolition of foreign post offices, and the eventual abolition of the Capitulations, as well as the imposition of the tenement tax and the establishment of various monopolies and of octroi duties, on the same lines as the negotiations of Hakki Pasha in London.

60. The discussions turned on the transformation of Series IV, V and VI of the Bagdad Railway Loan of 1911, totalling £T 2,237,000 each, not yet issued, into loans on a 5 per cent. basis, and of a similar arrangement for Series III, amounting to £T 5,256,000, which though issued had not yet been offered for public subscription, on a modification of the system of kilometric guarantees and on branch

lines to be built in connection with the Anatolian and Bagdad lines, viz., Angora to Sivas (junction with the French Samsoun-Sivas Railway), with a branch by Cæsarea and Nigde joining the Bagdad line; a branch from Tell-Hemf, on the Bagdad line towards Darbekr and Armana (point of junction with the French Black Sea line to Kharput); and a branch from El-Sanieh, on the Bagdad line, towards Khanekin, on the Persian frontier. The negotiations had also to take into consideration the junction of the German and French railways in Syria, the extension of the Bagdad line beyond Basra, subject to agreement with Great Britain, river navigation and oil concessions, also subject to agreement with Great Britain, and finally the question of German representation on the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt.

61. It is scarcely surprising that negotiations dealing with so many and complicated questions dependent upon concurrent agreements between Turkey and Great Britain, Turkey and France, and between Germany and France and Germany and Great Britain, should not have proceeded rapidly, and at the end of the year were still some way of completion.

Negotiations with Russia.

62. The consent of Austria-Hungary to the increase of Customs duties and conditional abolition of foreign post offices and Capitulations having been secured at the time of the cession of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908, and that of Italy by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1912, the only other Great Power whose consent was still required was Russia. Negotiations for this purpose have not made rapid progress. It is understood that Russia will make her assent dependent upon the admission of a Russian delegate to the Council of Administration of the Debt, upon the settlement of certain railway questions and participation in any company which may be formed to work the proposed petroleum monopoly.

Persian Frontier. Protocol of November 17, 1913.

63. Negotiations for settling the frontier between Turkey and Persia in connection with which frequent disputes had arisen since the Treaty of Erzeroum in 1848, initiated in 1911 under Russian auspices, were finally concluded with the co-operation of Great Britain on the 17th November 1913, by the signature of a protocol supplementing that part of the agreement of the 29th July relating to the southern frontier from Hanizeh Creek to the Persian Gulf. The Protocol of Delimitation was signed by the British and Russian Ambassadors as well as by Mahmoud Khan, the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople and the Grand Vizier. The Commission to mark out the frontier was to consist of four members, one British, one Russian, one Turkish, and one Persian, each with an assistant. In case the Ottoman and Persian Commissioners should be unable to arrive at an agreement in any matter of detail it was to be referred to the British and Russian members, and their decision was to be accepted as binding. The whole frontier from Serdar Bulak (Mount Ararat) at the point of contact with the Russo-Turkish boundary to the Persian Gulf was to be marked out. In its main lines it will follow the old line laid down in the Treaty of Erzeroum. An annex to the protocol reserves the rights of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in territories transferred either from Persia to Turkey or from Turkey to Persia.

German Military Mission.

64. In November a contract was entered into with the German Government for the loan of a military mission to reorganise the Turkish army, which was to receive fuller executive powers than the former mission of Marshal von der Goltz. Field-Marshal Liman von Sanders was selected as head of the mission and he was to be accompanied by a staff of more than fifty officers and instructors. The subsequent appointment of General Liman von Sanders to the executive command of the 1st (Constantinople) Army Corps, which was to serve as a model corps for the special training of officers, raised great opposition from the Russian Government. The importance of the appointment seems to have been exaggerated, and Russia may obtained the half-hearted support of the French Government and the still more lukewarm co-operation of His Majesty's Government in protesting against it. In order, however, to calm the agitation created, the German and Turkish Governments finally compromised by appointing another officer to the command of the Constantinople Army Corps, while giving General Liman the rank of Inspector-General with as much

if not more authority than he would have had as Commander-in-chief of the garrison of Constantinople, and appointing a German officer of lower rank to the command of a division at Scutari

British Naval Mission

65 On the 8th December a formal application was received by His Majesty's Government for the loan of eight naval officers and twenty-four officials foremen and instructors to assist Admiral Limpus in his work of reorganising the navy The request included the loan of a flag officer retired not more than one year from the British navy, to command the Turkish fleet in war time and of a captain or commander of experience to be adviser of the commodore of the torpedo flotilla both for war and peace, to become an Ottoman subject while serving the engagement to be for at least ten years

Naval Arsenal and Docks Contract

66 On the 2nd December a very important agreement was signed with a British combination of Messrs Armstrong, Whitworth and Company and Messrs Vickers giving to an Ottoman company to be formed by them a practical monopoly of naval construction and repairs for thirty years By the terms of their contract the company are to take over the existing naval arsenal on the Golden Horn, and to construct a naval base with a large floating dock at Ismid Details of the concession are given under the heading, "Relations with Great Britain, section 2, paragraph 69

Question of the Ægean Islands

67 The views of the Porte with regard to the islands are stated in a note of the 30th December communicated by Rewfik Pasha to His Majesty's Government, in which His Excellency protests against making the fate of the islands near the coast of Asia Minor depend upon the satisfactory settlement of the southern boundary of Albania After explaining the dangers to which Turkey would be exposed if these islands were assigned to Greece by the facilities afforded to contraband trade in arms, political intrigues on the mainland, the escape of criminals, the note states that in this event the Turkish Government would be compelled to employ all the means in their power to retake them from Greece With regard to the islands occupied by Italy it is maintained that which they are restored it must be a restoration pure and simple with the sole reserve in favour of the inhabitants of the provisions of the Imperial firman included in the Treaty of Lausanne

II.—Relations with Great Britain

68 At the time of the *coup d'état* of January 1913 it was generally thought that the Young Turk party, though they had secured a temporary success would not remain in power for long. It was further believed that they were bound hand and foot to Germany, and that their access to power on the disappearance of Kiamil Pasha was a serious blow to British influence Neither of these prophecies has been realised The Young Turks are now firmer in the saddle than they have ever been before, the bitter experience of their first months have taught them wisdom, and if rumours are still being hatched on the whole it must be admitted that Talaat, Enver, Djemal, and the other leading spirits of the Committee have not only been fortunate but have deserved their good fortune The matters which led to the overthrow of Kiamil call for more appreciative comment than they have generally received During the negotiations in London desperate efforts were made to save Adrianople The town had not been taken, and there was still a force in Europe that might remain Turkish Kiamil, an old man of over 80, was weary of the struggle, and was about to yield Enver Bey Talaat Bey, and a large section of the younger and more active of the leaders of the revolution which has driven Abdul Hamid from the throne and his corrupt surroundings from power thought otherwise but except by violent methods it was impossible to impose their will on the Government The circumstances of the murder of Nazim prove almost conclusively that it was premeditated A deliberate crime of this nature could have served no purpose Enver and the persons who accompanied him were determined to effect their purpose by peaceful means if possible but they were no doubt prepared to take the risk of bloodshed, should necessity arise Accounts of the incident are naturally somewhat confused, but the first shot was undoubtedly fired by an

aide-de-camp of the Minister of War The death of the latter was merely a regrettable accident in the affray which followed

69 The second point on which predictions have not been verified is the hostility of the Young Turks to England This has been disproved over and over again For the introduction of reforms in Armenia the first appeal was made to His Majesty's Government The motive may have been to some extent a wish to play us off against Russia, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was also due to belief in the efficiency of English organising and administrative talent. Sir Richard Crawford has always received cordial co-operation in his attempt to reorganise the finances of the country, and his efforts in this direction have met with the warmest recognition The same may be said of Admiral Limpus at the Ministry of Marine, but perhaps the most striking instance of confidence has been the conclusion in December of the docks contract with Messrs Whitworth, Armstrong, and Vickers No such contract has ever been made in any country, and it was secured without payment of a penny of backsheesh in the face of formidable competition by the Krupp and Orlando Works Except in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf it gives a monopoly for the repair and construction of warships in the Ottoman Empire for thirty years to a company which, though nominally Ottoman, is in fact entirely controlled by the British directors The Government hand over to the company the arsenal on the Golden Horn with three existing dry docks and all its contents, on which reserving priority for Government repairs, it leaves to the company the privilege of carrying out private contracts. The company undertake to bring to the Gulf of Ismid a floating dock capable of repairing the largest ship of war at present existing or in course of construction, and to create on and round Ismid a first class naval base The board of directors consists of three out of seven, or of four out of nine Ottoman directors, and the company the full title of which is the Société Ottomane des Constructions Docks, Arsenaux et Constructions navales," must be formed as an Ottoman company working under the Ottoman Companies' Law A "consulting committee" with four British advisers controls all operations and decides on all purchases exceeding £T 1,000 in value English foremen, overseers and foremen may not number more than 100 after ten years at least half the technical staff must be Ottoman subjects Orders for naval construction must be placed through the company At the end of twelve years the docks must be equipped for the construction of hulls and machinery of all types and sizes The capital of the company consists of £T 600,000 5s per cent preference shares paid up as the works, and of 1,100,000 5 per cent bonds taken by the company at 80, or in the case of further issues, at seven points below the current price of similar Turkish bonds The share capital is 200,000 120,000 of which is held by the Turkish Government and 80,000 by the works The debenture capital is secured by an annual payment of 80,500 from the tithes of the vilayet of Sivas, amounting to £T 300,000 ranking pari passu after a first assignment of the same tithes of £T 60,000 as security for the 1 per cent loan of 1903.

70 The term of the contract practically guarantees that for the next thirty years all orders for naval construction and machinery will be placed in the United Kingdom

71 Hakki Pasha arrived in London at the end of February The object of his mission was to obtain assent for the increase of the Turkish Customs duties, the abolition of foreign post offices, and the eventual consent of His Majesty's Government to the abolition of the Capitulations, as well as the application of the Ottoman tax to British subjects, the creation of petroleum, matches, and other monopolies, and the imposition of octroi duties by municipal authorities Many other matters also required settlement the status of various semi-autonomous and truly independent Arab chiefs in the part of Arabia bordering on the Persian Gulf, the navigation of the Shatt-el-Arab, the privileges of British religious, charitable and scholastic institutions, concessions in Mesopotamia, the vast number of long outstanding pecuniary claims of British subjects as well as the modification of the Baghdad Railway concession, and the rights and conditions of extension of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway

72 The river navigation and Persian Gulf questions were settled without much difficulty by the agreement at London on the 29th May, a summary of which is given in paragraphs 49-54 Though the principles of settlement were agreed upon, the details gave rise to long discussions The Shatt-el-Arab Convention involved questions with Germany and Russia both of whom wished to safeguard the rights of their subjects under the Capitulations in regard to the Anglo-Turkish Conservancy Commission This question was settled with Germany by admitting that German

subjects were entitled to the protection of German consular officials in cases of infringement of the conservancy regulations and by according to consular representatives the right of corresponding directly with the Conservancy Commission An agreement with Russia on the same lines was not reached until the present year

73 The question in which the concession was to be given to the Tigris and Euphrates Navigation Company to be formed by Lord Inchcape, were also the subject of lengthy correspondence The existing rights of Messrs Lynch and Van Jaffer had to be considered These difficulties were eventually met by Messrs Lynch being admitted to a share in the new company and by Lord Inchcape agreeing to buy out the Van Jaffer interests The main object in these negotiations was to prevent British interests in Mesopotamia from being prejudiced by the advent of the Bagdad Railway How far this will be permanently successful remains to be seen When the railway is completed it is feared that it will be hardly possible that river transport can successfully compete with the Baghdad line The railway journey will occupy about a fifth of the time taken by the river steamers and as double transhipment will be avoided rates for goods are almost certain to be lower by rail

74 The question in which the most favourable terms of 23 feet at low water between Basra and the sea may be secured was also the subject of lengthy correspondence It is impossible to foresee what will be the effect of carrying out this improvement, which will take four years to complete, on the prosperity of Basra and the river ports Many will suppose that no special steps need be taken, but if the Tigris is to be used to the full capacity of which it is capable the river will become so crowded that navigation will be impossible for large ocean steamers to reach Basra

75 The agreement for the navigation concession was signed by Hakki Pasha and Lord Inchcape on the 9th December

76 It grants to the company to be formed, by Lord Inchcape an exclusive right of navigation by steam vessels between the Persian Gulf and Mosul and on the tributaries in which for sixty years, to be afterwards successive periods of sixty years unless notice of revocation be given at the end of the sixty years, or of each of the successive periods of sixty years by either party to the contract, on twelve months' notice The company will be registered as Ottoman and free from all taxes and customs dues on all property imported and used solely for the purposes of the concession Its steamers are to enjoy the same privileges for services as those of the Ottoman Government companies subject to the Sanitary Convention, and such properties as it may require will be acquired by the Government and leased to the company The exemption from Customs duties is absolute except at the case of fuel for which a payment is made for twenty years, and after that period a fixed sum of £T 20,000 per annum

76 An important point in the negotiations was the question of the Ottoman Government's control over the company's tariffs, and it was finally decided that the Ottoman Government and the company should each appoint a director to represent the interests of the public in the fixing of rates and passenger fares, and that the Government should have the right to veto any proposed increase in rates or fares which it considered unreasonable The Ottoman Government were anxious at first to have reserved to them the right to fix the maximum rates and fares, but this was finally abandoned in favour of the above provision, which will probably be found sufficient for the protection of the public interests

77 The Board of the company and half the Board of Directors are to be Ottoman subjects, but the president must always be chosen from the Council of Administration and always be British subjects in whom effective control and decisions of the Board in which votes are to be counted by British and Turkish directors, the casting vote being reserved to the President of the Council of Administration or in his absence the vice-president The shares are to be divided equally between British subjects and the Ottoman Government Their transfer to other persons is carefully guarded against, so as to maintain the permanently British character of the company Two agents are to be appointed, one by the Ottoman Government and one by the concessionaire to decide upon and value the properties, &c., to be handed over to the company for the purposes of working its concession In case of disagreement

the decision is entrusted to an arbitrator selected by the Turkish Government and the company, or by the President of the Court of Appeal at Paris The value of the property thus transferred is paid for by the assignment of fully paid up shares to the Ottoman Government

78 Special provisions are made prohibiting any discrimination in rates and freights which are to be fixed subject to the approval of the Ottoman Government The company undertake to transport soldiers and Government officials at a reduction of 50 per cent Disputes arising between the Ottoman Government and the concessionaire company with regard to the interpretation and execution of the concession are to be submitted to The Hague Tribunal

79 By Annex I to the concession two steamers flying the British flag, with one steamer in reserve, are to continue on the two rivers, with the right of towing two barges as well as the steamer of Messrs Lynch, flying the Ottoman flag with the same right of towing barges

80 By a further agreement dated the same day, Lord Inchcape undertakes to use his best efforts to induce the company to be formed by him to buy three steamers belonging to Agad Jaffer now running on the rivers and also to buy the property of the Nahum Administration at a fair price and to take over the assets and liabilities of the pensions fund for Government officers employed in the navigation of the two rivers any deficit in the fund being made up by the Government or charged from the value of the property to be handed over to the company It is further agreed that the company shall carry Ottoman troops free of charge and at a rate not to exceed one half ton per man

81 A subject which the Turkish Government stipulated should be kept secret was the proposed grant of the navigation concession carrying the rights of the British post offices between Bagdad, Basra and Mohammerah and intermediate ports

82 By a subsequent agreement between His Majesty's Government and the German Government the former declared that it was willing to propose to the Bagdad Railway interests 40 per cent of the share capital of the navigation company, the Turkish interests to be first allotted out of the right in respect of such shares the equitable proportion of their issue of capital, giving the Bagdad Railway 20 per cent participation in the whole share capital of the navigation company It is agreed that Lord Inchcape shall offer to the Ottoman Government a number of shares which in their opinion is sufficient to give the Ottoman Government a controlling representative of the Bagdad Railway interests as well as the Ottoman interests the majority of the shares for the working of the concession

83 Other matters of interest which His Majesty's Government and the German Government were not so easily settled and though considerable progress was made with the negotiations they were still some way off conclusion at the end of the year

84 The desiderata of His Majesty's Government were confined to two points

1 That there should be no change detrimental to British interests in the political *status quo* at the head of the Persian Gulf, and

2 That there shall be no discrimination against British trade on the Bagdad Railway

The chief difficulties in the negotiations were over desire to secure the right of building feeder lines for the navigation company which might indirectly compete with the Bagdad Railway the concession of two directors on the board of the Bagdad Railway Company, arrangements for landing ports at Bagdad and Basra and the extension of the German Railway from Basra to the Persian Gulf On the other hand His Majesty's Government were ready to declare their claim to control on the Bagdad Basra section of the Bagdad line and to agree to support no railway undertaking directly in competition with the Bagdad Railway Company's rights or existing rights

85 The German Government agreed to the admission of two British directors on the board of the railway but required that it should be represented by a group of English shareholders and claimed German participation in the construction of any line from Basra to the Gulf, should it be decided to make it With regard to the river navigation concession they raised objections to the navigation company having a monopoly not only up and down stream but of ferries across the river, pointing out that as the railway and navigation companies would be rivals, it would not be in the interest of the latter to provide such facilities as might be judged necessary by the railway company to bring traffic to the railway from the left bank of the Tigris They wished, therefore, to have their own

system of ferry boats, at least at Bagdad, Samarah, and Mosul. They also objected to the clauses in the concession limiting the privileges granted for the transport of railway material to five years which they claimed should continue until the completion of the Bagdad-Basra section, whatever the period of construction.

86. In the demand for oil concessions in Mesopotamia Great Britain and Germany had conflicting interests. His Majesty's Government were supporting Mr. D'Arcy, who based claims on close negotiations with the Turkish Government since 1906 for a concession of the oil fields in the vilayets of Mosul and Bagdad granted by Imperial firman to the Civil List, while the German Government supported the Deutsche Bank as representing the Anatolian Railway Company, holders of a contract which the Ottoman Government claimed had been cancelled, and the Bagdad Railway Company, which by article 22 of the concession of 1903 were given general mining rights in a zone of 20 kilom. on either side of the railway.

87. Negotiations for the settlement of pecuniary claims, the privileges of religious, charitable and scholastic institutions, and, connected with an extension of the concession of the Smyrna and Aidin Railway Company in return for the assent of His Majesty's Government to the establishment in Turkey of petroleum, spirit, playing card, match, and other monopolies, the application of the temettu tax to British subjects, and the imposition of octroi duties by municipalities, only entered into the preliminary stage in the year under review.

88. The Smyrna-Aidin is the only remaining British railway company in Turkey. Though it has no guarantees it is very prosperous, earning, but not distributing, more than 10 per cent. on its share capital. Two main questions interest the company, the junction of its line with the Anatolian Railway Company's system and its extension and rights of navigation on Lakes Egerdir and Beyshehr, the latter of which is claimed by the Bagdad Railway as lying within its special sphere. Arrangements have to be made, and [illegible] negotiations with the German companies which are [illegible] to present insuperable obstacles. In the [illegible] the Italians have appeared on the scene with their railway and harbour schemes at Adalia and the neighbourhood of Adalia, where Italy wishes to carve out her own special sphere of influence. These projects, which the Société [illegible] Commerciale Industrielle et [illegible] have been put forward to take up, are in danger of conflicting with the rights of the British Company in whose zone Adalia is included.

89. Putting aside the arsenal and docks concession which was [illegible] for British capital without the intervention of His Majesty's Government it is unfortunate that while France and Germany are securing as the result of their action, concessions for hundreds of miles of railways and several important harbours, involving the expenditure of millions of pounds and large orders to French and German firms, and at the same time opening up a wide field for commercial enterprise, likely to benefit both Turkey and themselves, British effort, supported and pressed, is a river monopoly with a capital of 300,000*l.*, half of which is subscribed by the Turks, who will not except [illegible] less than a monopoly on two rivers and similar concessions [illegible] a very prosperous railway company, and request to the Turkish Government of freedom from customs duties on imported materials.

90. Thus she stands in a position that Great Britain is offering very little in comparison with the advantages offered by France and Germany, who even [illegible] propose to pour millions of pounds into the country, and make no difficulties in matters of detail, whilst British capitalists still [illegible] aloof from taking their share in its economic development.

91. While Germany has already nearly 11,000,000*l.* sunk in the Bagdad Railway, and French bondholders possess 50,000,000*l.* of Turkish Government securities, the share of Great Britain in the public debt amounts to less than 5,000,000*l.*

III.—Relations with Germany

92. German commercial influence in Turkey is undoubtedly growing. It is impossible for a new comer in Constantinople not to be struck by the importance of German commercial enterprise. The imposing railway terminus at Haidar Pasha, German shops, German electric lighting companies, tramways and power stations, all of recent growth, show the readiness with which German capital seeks an outlet in this country. Notwithstanding the failure of German military training, her hold on the army is greater than at any previous time. It now appears to be certain that the great trunk line which is to connect the Sea of Marmora with the Persian Gulf will be

finished entirely with German capital. While the conditions are onerous to Turkey, there can be no doubt that the advantages derived from it will be more than commensurate with the present sacrifices which have to be made. The direct gain to Germany is perhaps small, but, in addition to being a source of political influence, indirectly, through the placing of orders for railway materials, the commercial profits are considerable.

93. The various negotiations which have been proceeding during the year have already been referred to. The principal aim which the German Government have in view before acceding to the Turkish demands for the 4 per cent. customs increase, and other desiderata has been to secure adequate guarantees for the payment of interest on the capital required for the completion of the Bagdad Railway. It was this consideration which dictated the policy of Germany at the International Finance Commission at Paris in requiring the Balkan States to assume a share of the Turkish Debt, and in opposing any claim for an indemnity. Other objects are the admission of a second German delegate to the Council of the Ottoman Debt, and the right of presidency for their principal delegate in alternation with his British and French colleagues. These demands have been given as a condition of the German assent to the presence of a Russian delegate on the debt council.

94. The present policy of Germany is to maintain the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. This is proved by the consideration shown during the recent crisis by the acceptance of the task of organising the army, and by the invariably friendly attitude of the Emperor William in the character which he wishes to assume as the champion of Islam. Germany wants a free field for trade which can better be assured without partition. Though the [illegible] to run Turkey on the lines of Great Britain in Egypt may exist in some quarters, it must be fully recognised that this is an aspiration which will inevitably bring her into conflict with Russia, who could never [illegible] German political predominance in Constantinople. If the present Government [illegible] blunders and seriously set to work on the peaceful reorganisation of the country, unless these two Powers come to an understanding the continuance of Ottoman dominions seems to be fairly secure, owing to the rival aspirations of the Great Powers.

IV.—Relations with France

95. The financial interests of France in Turkey are larger than those of any other Power. The greater part of the Ottoman funded debt is held in Paris, amounting to about 54 per cent. of the whole. Her schools, hospitals, and religious foundations are more numerous and more important than those of Germany, Austria, Russia, and Great Britain, and in consequence occasions on which the intervention of the French Embassy is called for are very frequent. While financially Turkey may be said to be entirely dependent upon France, the political influence of the Republic hardly corresponds with the magnitude of these interests, and with her literary and scientific [illegible] Turkey. [illegible] administrative work entrusted to French officials is the [illegible] which is under the orders of General Baumann, contrasting with the much larger part taken by Great Britain in the reorganisation of the Ministries of Marine and Finance, at the customhouse, and latterly also at the Ministries of Interior and Justice, and by Germany at the Ministry of War.

96. It is of course in Syria that French influence is chiefly centred, where they have a practical monopoly of the railways, harbour works, gas and tramway companies, &c., and a large share of the foreign trade, but by the new railway concessions in the Black Sea provinces France is also creating a second and important sphere in a part of the country which, until lately, has been neglected.

97. Negotiations between Turkey and France during the year have already been referred to in paragraphs 55–58. In return for continued financial support a whole network of railway concessions have been obtained in the country lying between the German sphere in Anatolia and the Persian frontier, as well as for extensions in Syria, and for ports at Heraclea, Ineboli, Jaffa, Tripoli, and Caiffa, while three conventions were signed on the 18th December at Constantinople dealing with pecuniary claims, the privileges of religious, charitable, and scholastic institutions, and French subjects imprisoned for criminal offences, the French Government agreeing provisionally to the increase of customs, and all other Turkish desiderata, including the imposition of the temettu tax on French subjects, the establishment of petroleum and other monopolies, and the imposition of octroi duties by municipalities.

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V.—Relations with Russia

98. On two occasions during the past year relations with Russia were strained almost to breaking point. First in July when Turkey, profiting by Bulgaria's difficulties, reoccupied Adrianople, and towards the end of December when the appointment of the German Military Instructor, Marshal Limam von Sanders, to the command of the 1st Constantinople Army Corps, roused a feeling in Russian Government circles stronger than at any time during the Balkan wars.

99. On the reoccupation of Adrianople Russia was ready to go some lengths to compel respect for the Treaty of London, disappointment was felt at the reluctance of the other *Entente* Powers to do more than interpose mere protests and threaten a financial boycott; but nothing ready to hand, alone, Russia, too after long hesitation, finally consented to accept the accomplished fact.

100. In the matter of General Liman's appointment the quarrel was as much with Germany for having accepted the Turkish proposals as with Turkey for having made them. Anxiety was felt lest the German officer might be in command of the forces controlling the Bosphorus, the Straits might in the event of war with Germany be closed, and thus a stab be struck to Russian Black Sea trade. It was also alleged that if a state of siege were declared at Constantinople, the German General would eventually supersede the Ottoman officer who had been designated for the Ambassadors to depend for the safety of the foreign colony. With regard to the latter point the Grand Vizier after some pressing, expressly stated that in case Constantinople being declared in a state of siege, the control of the Constantinople troops would be exercised by the military governor, not by the commander of the Corps. As to the former point, it was never duly urged that more important question of gun-power as to closing the Straits, the decision could only be taken by the whole Cabinet and not by any one of the German military instructors, who could have no more authority than the other foreign officers of the Turkish Army, military advisers, or naval officers. A compromise was actually arrived at with the consent of the German Government that General Liman should have the rank of Inspector-General of the whole Ottoman Army, but neither number of his staff should nor the executive command of troops or of Naval matters in which connection he should have the same position as Constantinople. The real danger, of course, was the presence of so many officers of German military instructors all bent on assisting and organizing Ottoman troops, but what was to be done was not clear to the Marshal.

101. In the question of Armenian reforms Russia played a very important part. The Porte, fearing to give Russia a foothold in Asia Minor, was unwilling to grant the full measure of reforms, and proposals without appearing to disagree with the wishes of Russia and Great Britain, were supported by the assistance of His Majesty's Government, who tried to persuade the Armenian Patriarch of His Majesty's Government's belief in the strong opposition of Russian Government, who had let it be known that they regarded Armenia as their own special sphere of influence, which reforms being introduced through the Porte would be prejudicial to Russian interests. The reforms at length agreed upon were due to the initiative of Russia, who had previously obtained the assent of Great Britain to the suggestion of His Majesty's Government through the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, that in collaboration with all the other Ambassadors of the European Great Powers it was arranged that two important posts of inspectors-general of the two sections into which Armenia was divided, should be given to nominees of the Porte from a list of candidates chosen from the three European States submitted by the Powers.

102. The declared reluctance of Russia to extend her responsibilities in the neighbourhood of the Caucasus is probably sincere, and the maintenance of Turkey's integrity within her present limits, with a gradual increase of Russian influence in preparation for raising the question of the Straits, was no doubt considered German influence may be considered as the main object of Russian policy. It will, however, be necessary shortly to remove the deep-seated suspicion in the mind of Russia which is almost universal in Turkey and for which in the past it must be admitted that good reasons have existed. It is this fear and this suspicion which, since the formation of the Triple *Entente*, has contributed more than any other cause to throw Turkey into the arms of Germany and to look to Germany for support.

VI.—Relations with Austria-Hungary

103. The rôle played by Austria-Hungary in Turkey is subordinated to that of Germany, but far more than her ally Austria is interested in the maintenance of Turkish integrity. In this respect the Balkan war has completely changed the situation, and with the division of Turkey in Europe between the Balkan States, Austrian ambitions of territorial aggrandisement must be gratified at the expense of Turkey's successors in the European provinces. Alone of the Powers, Austria has no special sphere of influence in Asia Minor; she would have nothing to gain by a further break-up of the Ottoman Empire while as a Mediterranean naval Power, having many causes of possible conflict with Russia, she has a special interest in the maintenance of the *status quo* with regard to the passage of warships through the Straits, and can always be counted upon to oppose any modification of the restrictions imposed by the Declaration of London and the Treaty of Paris. At present Austrian policy is solely directed towards the protection and development of her important commercial interests and to securing the goodwill, and even friendship, of Turkey as a set-off to the increased power of Servia and Greece.

104. Albanian questions having been settled after the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary, Prince Bülow's successors, Austria has nothing further to gain in the Balkans, and here concessions will be made by the Sultan of Adrianople during the Balkan conflict in order to have a friend on any possible occasions of territorial partitions at the expense of the Ottoman Empire.

VII.—Relations with Italy

105. Italy is now striving to play a more important part in Turkey than in the past. Up to the time of the African war Italian interests were small and the Turkish Government scarcely accorded precedence to the Great Powers which counted. Possession of the Dodecanese and Cyrenaica have placed Italy in a different position. Her Consuls have precedence, and Italian schools, steamers and the other signs of the predominance have placed Italy in a different position. Her Embassy now ranks with Mukhtar Pasha, and Italian interests are prepared to make concessions in order to secure the integrity of Turkey. Italy has also taken steps to counteract the propaganda of the Greek Orthodox Church, which has been carried on through the agency of Greek monks and priests in Asia Minor. Italy has very seldom taken any part in questions affecting the Powers, although she has recently shown an increasing interest in Turkish affairs, as is shown by the appointment of Count Pansa to succeed Count Garroni as Ambassador at Constantinople, by the visit of Admiral Millo, Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Fleet in the Levant, to Constantinople, and by the visit of Admiral Aubrey Smyth, Commander-in-Chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet, to Smyrna. To secure this she is ready to make considerable concessions, because it is possible that the railway and other schemes for which concessions have been granted to Italians may not be carried out, and Italy will only be able to claim the fulfilment of the engagements which Turkey has undertaken with the Turkish Government refuse to subsidize the Italian Bank, and the great engagements have been supported by the Italian Government, although the great engagements have been supported by the Italian Government, although the great engagements have been supported by the Italian Government, although

approximately 200,000*l.* 10,000*l* was paid for the site alone It already towers four stories high on a hill opposite that on which the German Embassy is situated, and while it is architecturally more pretentious than the German barrack-like building, it is considerably larger than the British Embassy and more imposing than the Russian, contrasting with the modest house in Pera, formerly the Piedmontese Legation, which has up to now been thought sufficient to lodge the Italian representative The attempt of the Italians to impose themselves on Turkey has not met with much success. They are still very unpopular and their prospecting missions in the neighbourhood of Adana have encountered more than usual difficulties and opposition, while the magnificence of the new embassy house is even resented in some quarters as indicating a wish to make an impression by outward show, necessary perhaps in European centres, but not suitable to conditions of the new regime

VIII —Relations with Greece

107 Relations with Greece after the war have continued to be strained, and but for the timely intervention of the Roumanian Minister of Interior M Take Jonescu, at Athens there was even a danger that the peace negotiations at Athens would have broken down The chief difficulty has been the question of the possession of Chios and Mytilene which, having been left to the decision of the Powers was not decided among the subjects upon which a final settlement was arrived at in November Curiously enough there is no doubt that Turkey at this time believed that the decision as to the fate of the two islands would be favourable to Greece, as actually provided in clause in the treaty binding both Powers to read Greece to "maintain the Treaty of London" on this particular point The original wording as proposed by the Turkish delegate was still stronger, and as proposed to astonished the Greek Minister who was later informed as to the decision already arrived at in London

108 The outstanding issues have been referred to in paragraph 44 of this report, and were mainly due to the claim of Greece to go back to the *status quo* not before the last war but before the conflict of 1897 and to secure capitulatory privileges for Greek subjects in Turkey, to which the Ottoman Government offered an absolute refusal The terms as finally agreed to were much on the same lines as those of the Bulgarian treaty

109 It is clear that the question of the islands may yet be a cause of renewed conflict between the two countries and every effort is being made by Turkey to gain the world supremacy which made Greece such a terrible opponent in the last war However much the policy of future statesmen of Turkey persists in refusing to accept accomplished facts and to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards a nation which numbers persons of the same race, language and religion by hundreds of thousands within the Ottoman boundaries, and which carries a certain measure of protection to a quarter of the population of the capital, nearly half of Smyrna, and a large percentage of the coast population from Marmora to the Black Sea It is this very fact which largely stands to a large extent the attitude of Turkey on this question, as is the presence of this large Greek element in their midst which constitutes for them a real danger and is a constant reminder of Greek ambitions

IX —Relations with Bulgaria

110. Recent attempts with Bulgaria after the war has been more rapid and more complete than with any other of the Balkan States After the reverses of July and the loss of Adrianople, which only remained, for four months, in the hands of the Bulgarians, the latter were in a conciliatory mood, and after vainly hoping for an intervention by Europe to secure respect for the Treaty of London, they were compelled in September to come to a direct agreement with Turkey at the sacrifice of much of the territory conquered by them Adrianople was abandoned, and Bulgaria retained only Dedeagatch, Enos and a small frontage on the Black Sea The attitude of General Savof who stayed on at Constantinople some time after the conclusion of peace, under instructions show that an attempt has been made to arrive at some understanding in the event of hostilities again breaking out between Turkey and Greece At the same time cordial co-operation seems to be out of the question Turkey, and particularly a young-Turk Government, could hardly sacrifice Salonica, which Bulgaria would demand as the reward of a successful joint campaign, and though for the moment there may be political community of interest mutual and religious animosity cannot so easily be extinguished Bulgaria has need of expansion.

She can hardly for ever renounce all further ambition of retaking some of the territory lost by her blunders, and as was shown in the course of the London negotiations, she attached almost as much importance to a footing on the Sea of Marmora as on the Ægean A decisive factor in the situation is the attitude of the Roumanian Government who, apart from their desire for the permanent maintenance of the Treaty of Bucharest, are strongly interested in seeing that the rapprochement between Bulgaria and Turkey is not developed into a formal alliance

X —Relations with Servia

111 Now that Servia has ceased to be a Danubian country, relations with Turkey have lost much of their former importance In the partition which followed the Treaty of Bucharest Servia acquired fewer Moslems and still fewer Turks than any of the other Balkan States In the plains of Kossovo, at Dibra and Monastir are many Albanians and Bulgarians or Bulgaro-phone exarchist proselytes) and a good many Greeks, but scarcely any pure Ottomans, and unlike the case of Greece and in a less degree Bulgaria, no large Servian elements are left under Ottoman rule. The absence of serious and urgent questions to be settled, unless the somewhat unreasonable demands first put forward by the Servian Government, was the cause of the long delay in the conclusion of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, the negotiations for which at the end of the year had made but little progress in the hands of the uncompromising Servian representative M Pavlovatch

112 Except in so far as Servia may be involved by her understanding with Greece serious causes of conflict with Turkey no longer exist

XI —Relations with Montenegro.

113. As with Servia the importance of Montenegrin relations with Turkey has ceased since the loss of Albania and Old Servia The Porte has not even been at the trouble to negotiate a separate treaty of peace with King Nicholas and diplomatic relations have not yet been established As part of a general policy it is probable that Montenegrin interests are confined to the protection of a few hundred hamalporters and caïques in Constantinople will in future permanently be entrusted to the Servian or Russian representative

XII —Relations with Roumania

114. The present role of Roumania is to hold the balance in the Balkans, and her aim to maintain the *status quo* created by the Treaty of Bucharest Roumania is one of the few European States which can have nothing whatever to gain by a further dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, and her interests require that Turkey shall be strong enough to resist encroachments by Bulgaria, in particular, in the case of Constantinople which might threaten the free passage of the Straits for her growing trade

115 Before the Balkan wars Efforts were made by Turkey to induce Roumania to threaten Bulgaria by increasing Turkish overtures failed, partly because Turkey had nothing to offer partly because they were made too late, and the outbreak of war probably took Roumania by surprise, partly also because of uncertain result Once to join forces with a Mussulman State of whose strength there was reason to doubt, but chiefly, no doubt because Roumania hoped to over what she wanted by direct negotiation with Bulgaria as the price of her neutrality Now that Roumania has achieved the object of her ambitions there can be no further need for a formal alliance, but the two countries have every reason to be on good terms

116. The Koutzo-Vlach question, in which Roumanian interest may have been chiefly artificial, has been settled, as far as Turkey is concerned, by the loss of all the territory in which there are any Koutzo-Vlach villages

XIII —Relations with Persia

117. Constant causes of friction and difficulties have been removed by the declaration annexed to the Anglo-Turkish Agreement of the 29th July, defining the southern frontier between Turkey and Persia from Omm-Chir at the junction of the Khor-el-Douvel and the Khor-el-Azem to the sea and by the protocol signed at

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Constantinople on the 17th November, under the auspices of Great Britain and Russia, providing for the delimitation of the whole Persian frontier by an international commission in which British and Russian commissioners were to take part and act as umpires in case of disagreement between the Ottoman and Persian commissioners as to the interpretation of the protocol. The commission did not start work until the beginning of the present year.

XIV.—Relations with Belgium, Sweden, Holland, and Denmark

118. The relations with the smaller European States are mainly commercial but with Sweden and Holland they have some special interest owing to both these countries enjoying capitulatory rights and to historical associations dating in the case of Sweden to the old Varangian guard of the Byzantine Emperors and the campaigns of Charles XII, and both countries possess fine legation houses which have been the property of their Government for many generations. Denmark, whose interests have hitherto been looked after by the Swedish Legation, is about to create a permanent mission at Constantinople.

XV.—Internal Reforms

119. The disastrous centralisation policy of the Government which succeeded the Hamidian régime, involving the forcible Turkification of provinces suffering widely on race questions, ended, as might appear, in its own inevitable abandonment. The most important measure of internal reform introduced during the year, largely increasing the powers of the Provincial Governments, was that relating to the Vilayets Law, passed on the 20th March. It subdivides provinces for separating provincial from Imperial finance.

120. The new law is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the general and the second with the special, or administrative, vilayets.

121. In the portions of the law dealing with elective bodies reference to religious distinctions is omitted. The executive machinery of the Vali, who presides with the aid of an executive committee presented by many of the features of a Provincial Parliament, is increased. He appoints a deputy-governor, his own adviser, many of the provincial officials, and has to be consulted as to the appointment of most of the larger administrative officials. He cannot, for unqualified misconduct, dismiss officers without reference to Constantinople, and finally, as the representative in his province of each of the Imperial Ministers, he is the channel for the communication of laws directly affecting local provincial interests. In the matter of public order he has complete authority over the provincial gendarmerie, as well as the assistance of the military, and forces are not to be withdrawn except in case of foreign invasion or great disorder by his own authority, but he must possess himself of the Council's agreement within twenty-four hours.

122. There is in each vilayet an administrative council consisting of the higher provincial officials and the spiritual heads of the various religious communities, with elected members, in connection with official offences and other functions, to decide the position of the Government contracts.

123. The Provincial Government is empowered to enter into contracts for reclaiming lakes and marshes, the construction of canals within certain limits, the establishment of navigation and tramway systems under concessions granted for any period not exceeding forty years.

124. The financial clauses provide for an ordinary and extraordinary budget. The former bears all charges connected with the special services of the province, salaries of special provincial officials, charges on property belonging to the Provincial Government, &c. The latter covers all charges for non-recurring expenditure, new buildings and the like. The articles enumerating the provincial revenues not only include existing taxes now placed at the disposal of the local Government, but give it the power of imposing surtaxes not exceeding 7½ per cent. of the principal tax. They also empower it to raise loans for extraordinary expenditure. This privilege is restricted so long as the amount of the loan does not exceed one-third of the annual revenue of the province. If it exceed that amount, but not the year's annual revenue, it must be sanctioned by Imperial decree, while if it exceed one year's revenue an Act of Parliament is required.

125. In all matters connected with the special administration of the vilayet the Vali is the chief executive authority. In matters of provincial finance, however, and in most of the important matters outside the ordinary administrative routine, the

binding decision is that of the general council of the vilayet. This body consists of paid members from each kaza elected by a joint college composed of the secondary electors of the last Parliamentary elections and of the Municipal Council of the *chef-lieu* of the kaza. Candidates for the general council must be residents in the Ottoman Empire, otherwise the qualification for membership is the same as for Parliament. Soldiers on active service, senators and deputies, judges, officials, tax-farmers and contractors for public services in the vilayet are excluded. The life of the council is for four years. The Vali is *ex-officio* president. The ordinary session of forty-five days a year can only be prolonged by the Vali, and under no circumstances for more than fifteen days. Extraordinary sessions can only be held with the sanction of the Central Government and only for the consideration of special business to be stated beforehand. The Vali has power to suspend the sessions for a week in case of need and may provoke a dissolution of the Council by Imperial decree based upon a decision of the Council of Ministers. The Council has a power of coercion by refusing supplies since expenditure not sanctioned by the council can be added to the provincial budget by the Ministry of Interior of its own initiative upon a report furnished by the Vali. As the Central Government takes good care that their own nominees shall be elected to the council the increase of the powers of the local authorities is apparent rather than real.

126. A permanent committee of the council consisting of four members chosen each year is charged with the duty of examining the budget before presentation, of revising the monthly accounts and with various other functions. A new feature of the law is the provision for the appointment, after the consent of the Central Government has been obtained, of inter-provincial committees to consider matters interesting two or more vilayets.

127. The law further provides for special regulations being drawn up dealing with the settlement and administration of the nomad tribes of the Empire.

128. A further addition to the vilayet law was subsequently made, providing for the division of the Empire into sectors or groups of provinces each, see or under the control of an inspector-general with very extensive powers, nominated for five years by the Council of Ministers, assisted by native and foreign specialists in numbers to be decided by the Council of Ministers, but whose appointment should be made on the designation or with the adhesion of the inspector-general. The new administrative subdivisions are to be

(1.) *Marmora*.—Consisting of the districts of Brousse, Angora, Castamouni, Boli, Ismid, Karassi and Dardanelles.
(2.) *Smyrna*.—Districts of Smyrna, Konieh and Adana.
(3.) *Armenia*.—Districts of Erzeroum, Sivas, Trebizond and Janik.
(4.) *Syria*.—Districts of Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Zor and Jerusalem.
(5.) *Irmenia*.—Districts of Bitlis, Diarbekir, Kharpout and Van.
(6.) *Mesopotamia*.—Districts of Bagdad, Basra and Mosul.

129. On the 15th May, or before this subdivision was finally decided upon, the Turkish Embassy in London applied for the loan of a British inspector-general, three gendarmerie officers, and four inspectors of gendarmerie (see p. 26), justice, public works, and agriculture, in a sector which was to include Smyrna, Brousse and Constantinople. His Majesty's Government not wishing to act outside of the general concert of Europe were unwilling to accede to this request, and somewhat similar applications in July to the Swedish Legation at Constantinople for the services of three Swedish officers for the reorganisation of the gendarmerie in Syria and to the Belgian Government for the loan of three officials to assist the inspector-general of the Smyrna sector also met with no response.

Committee of Union and Progress

130. The annual congress of the Committee of Union and Progress closed in October, after coming to some important decisions, among which was its own transformation from a secret society into a political party. In its programme are included various schemes of economic, administrative, and educational reforms, the restoration to the Sultan of the right of dissolving the Chamber in case of necessity, on condition that fresh elections must be held and that the new Chamber must meet within four

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months of the dissolution of the old one, a change in the article in the constitution of 1909 enforcing the resignation of a Minister against whom a vote of want of confidence has been passed and of the whole Ministry when a vote of censure has been passed against the Grand Vizier, and finally the endeavour "to suppress all financial economic privileges enjoyed by foreigners to the detriment of national independence in questions of economic policy, and to work as a sacred duty for the suppression of all the capitulations.

XVI.—Armenian Reforms

131. Events in the Balkans and the liberation of Macedonia produced a movement in the Armenian vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Kharput, Diarbekr and Sivas for the application of reforms provided for by article 61 of the Treaty of Berlin, which, like so many other provisions of that treaty, had remained a dead letter. The author of the movement was Mgr. Ormanian, former Patriarch, deposed by the violent agitation of the Tashnag Armenians, albeit by the Committee of Union and Progress. The programme of the reformers, considered by a Ministerial Commission, created by Reshid Bey, Minister of the Interior, was to divide the six provinces into two groups, the first comprising Bitlis, Van, and Erzeroum with headquarters at the latter town, and the second, Sivas, Diarbekr, and Kharput with headquarters at Kharput. The Valis of the six provinces were to be nominated, in each province equal to a sanjak, while each of the two groups were to be administered by a commission, sitting at the headquarters, composed of two Armenians, two Moslems, and two foreigners, with a third foreigner as president. The gendarmerie and police were to be officered by Europeans, and there were also to be European judicial inspectors. The obviously unacceptable suggestion was also made that Russia should receive a mandate such as was given to Austria in 1878 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to administer the vilayets under the suzerainty of the Sultan.

132. On the 21st April Sir G. Lowther was authorised to express the most earnest hope of His Majesty's Government that the Porte would take the question of reforms into their urgent consideration.

133. On the 24th April the Ottoman Embassy in London addressed a formal request to His Majesty's Government to provide British officers to take effective command of the gendarmerie corps of the two sections to which it has been decided to organise Eastern Anatolia, viz. Van, Bitlis, Diarbekr, and Kharput, and Erzeroum, Sivas, and Trebizond, as well as seven British gendarmerie officers to command the seven corps of gendarmerie of each of the vilayets composing these two sections. The Embassy at the same time asked for two inspectors of gendarmerie, two inspectors of justice, two inspectors of agriculture and forests, and two inspectors of public works, one for each of the two sections, and further for the appointment of an inspector-general and an assistant to be employed at the Ministry of the Interior. Tewfik Pasha was verbally informed on the 27th May that it appeared to His Majesty's Government that, as some of the vilayets concerned bordered on the Russian frontier, it would be well to inform the Russian Government of the request which had been made. Tewfik Pasha said that there would be no objection to this, but that his Government did not wish Russia to participate. It was further intimated that in order not to create embarrassments with other Powers, it seemed to His Majesty's Government that the proposal of an adviser at the Ministry of the Interior had better be dropped. On the 31st May the Russian Government proposed that the British, French and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople should draw up a scheme for reforms. In reply His Majesty's Government stated that they would prefer that the scheme of reforms should be the work of all the Powers and not of three only, and that they had decided to limit their assistance to the loan of officers to organise the gendarmerie in the Armenian vilayets. A formal reply was sent to the Ottoman Embassy in London on the 24th May. It stated that His Majesty's Government were loth to lead the Ottoman Government to take any step which might involve them in difficulties with other Governments, and feared that the engagement of subjects of a single Power to fill posts in so many branches of the Administration might have the effect of causing to the Turkish Government embarrassments of this nature." It was therefore advisable to limit their assistance to the provision of inspectors and officers of gendarmerie in the two Armenian sections. They were also ready to consider the question of recommending a British official to fill the post of inspector-general at the Ministry of the Interior, which might prove

sufficient without the appointment, in addition, of an adviser to the same Ministry. On the 25th May the Russian Government communicated a memorandum setting forth the importance of the question of reforms in Armenia to Russia, which they considered ought to be entirely distinct from reforms in other parts of Asia Minor. The danger of creating a movement in favour of autonomy, such as had existed in Macedonia, is dismissed. M. Sazonof finally proposed that the three Powers of the Triple Entente should take the matter in hand by means of friendly representations to the Porte, giving it plainly to be understood that if co-operation were not accepted Russia would consider herself "freed from all engagements, and would be prepared to protect her interests to the extent appropriate to the circumstances." On the 28th May His Majesty's Government suggested either that Russia, in consultation with Turkey should draw up a scheme of reform for the Armenian vilayets and simultaneously propose that reforms for the rest of Asiatic Turkey should be discussed by the six Ambassadors at Constantinople, or that Russia should take the initiative in proposing a scheme of reforms, inviting all the Powers to take part. On the 31st May, in reply, the Russian Government states that they accepted the latter of the two proposals made by Sir Edward Grey, and had, in consequence, instructed their Ambassador at Constantinople to re-establish fundamental principles of the desired reforms on the basis of the scheme drawn up by France, Russia and Great Britain in 1895." The Russian Government objected to Turkish representatives being present at the discussions, while His Majesty's Government were inclined to urge that the Turkish draft scheme should be considered in connection with the 1895 proposals.

134. The Russian proposal was communicated to the Foreign Office on the 17th June. It provided for the creation of one province composed of the six vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekr, Kharput and Sivas, excepting only certain frontier districts, to be placed under a Christian Governor-General, generally European approved by the Sultan for five years with the consent of the Powers. The Governor-General was to have full power to appoint and dismiss all officials and judicial judges, the command of the gendarmerie and the disposal of the military forces of the territory. The Governor-General was to be assisted by a consultative council including representatives. The Provincial Assembly was to be composed of Christians and Mussulmans in equal numbers. The police and gendarmerie were to be recruited from among the inhabitants of the province and half of them to be Christians. Valves of the province were to be exempted from military service within its boundaries. The Kurdish Light Cavalry was to be disbanded. Officials were to be half Christians and half Mussulmans, and arrangements were to be made for the use and recognition of local languages.

135. The German Government considered that these proposals went too far, fearing that if Armenia were to be made an autonomous province this might lead to the eventual partition of the Ottoman Empire. Nor did they entirely meet with the approval of the French Government, which thought that the reforms should be elaborated by all the Powers in consultation with the Porte and not forced on one scheme only, and that meanwhile efforts should be made to bring about the withdrawal of the Kurdish Light Cavalry.

136. During the subsequent discussion of the reforms by the Ambassadors at Constantinople the Turkish proposals were taken as basis. The procedure was adopted on account of the instructions of the representatives of the Triple Alliance, who wanted the affair to be part of a general scheme, and not to create a special regime only for Armenia. The Russian proposal for a European Governor of an Armenian province was rejected, but foreign control by means of advisers and specialists was admitted, while from the Russian draft were taken abolition of the Kurdish Light Cavalry, official use of Armenian and Kurdish in addition to Turkish, and proportional instead of popular representation in the different services of the vilayets where non-moslems were numerous. The representatives of the Triple Alliance favoured proposals of equal representation for Armenians and Mussulmans. Theoretically their contention was incontestable, but it was feared that in practice it might be impossible to carry it into effect. Regional military service advocated in article 12 of the Russian proposal was vigorously combated by the German and Austrian representatives on the ground that such a measure would create an autonomous province which it was their object to prevent. As a final result of the negotiations it was decided to recommend the Turkish proposals to divide the seven vilayets into two zones, that two foreign inspectors-general should be appointed with the consent of the Powers, and that they should be given power to nominate as well as dismiss all officials including the Valis.

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137. On the 25th September the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London announced that the Porte had decided to apply to the Powers to recommend two inspectors-general, one for Erzeroum, Trebizonde, and Sivas, and one for Van, Bitlis, Kharput, and Diarbekir. The inspectors were to be allowed to select higher officials and judges for nomination by the Porte and to appoint other officials as well as to dismiss all officials in their sector. The elective Councils in each sector was to be composed of Moslems and Christians in equal numbers.

138. On the 7th October the Porte offered the posts of inspectors-general to Sir Richard Crawford and Mr. Robert Graves, both already in the employment of the Turkish Government at the Ministry of Finance, with powers similar to those which had been given to Hilmi Pasha in Macedonia. Neither of these officials was ready to accept, and their selection would obviously not have been welcomed by Russia. His Majesty's Government refused to sanction the appointment of British officials pending a general understanding respecting the reform scheme under discussion between all the Powers (October 14).

139. The ready acquiescence of the Porte in acceptance of the scheme drawn up by the six Powers seems to have been somewhat premature. After the refusal of Sir Richard Crawford and Mr. Graves to take up the appointments offered to them, Turkey appeared to be very anxious to avoid having foreign inspectors-general, but in November the Porte expressed readiness to accept two foreign advisers recommended by the Powers. As first proposed the powers of the advisers were clearly inadequate. Some increase of authority was admitted, but the Turkish proposals, even, thus amended did not go far enough.

140. Finally a scheme was drawn up by the Russian and German Ambassadors providing for the appointment of two advisers, with the right, conjointly with the inspectors-general, to appointing and dismissing officials, of presiding over the Commission of Inspection and generally of controlling the administrative action of the inspectors-general. Members elected to the General Assemblies were to be half Mussulman and half non-Mussulman. Recruits in time of peace were to serve within the limits of their sector. The Hamidieh Cavalry was to be disbanded. Local language was to be employed for laws decrees, and notices issued in the Law Courts. Special taxes were to be imposed for educational purposes.

141. A compromise scheme was not accepted by the Ottoman Government until the present year, but a settlement of the question now being in view, His Majesty's Government no longer resisted the request for the loan of an officer for the reorganisation of the gendarmerie. In November Colonel Bawker was appointed to command four regiments of gendarmerie at Erzeroum, and a French officer was to command three other regiments but these appointments had no direct connection with the reform schemes, and were actually made by General Baumann the French commandant of the Turkish gendarmerie at Constantinople. On the understanding that the appointment of Colonel Hawker was of a temporary character, pending a general discussion on the subject when the reform scheme was accepted the Russian Government made no objection.

142. Coincidently with the Armenian movement the Turkish reverses in the Balkans also provoked a certain unrest among the Kurds. The leaders were Hussein Pasha and Abdurezak Bey sons of Bedr Khan, the latter at one time Assistant Master of the Ceremonies to Abdul Hamid, but in the latter years of his reign exiled to Tripoli. The movement, which may have received some impulse from the Armenians, did not assume serious proportions.

XVII.—Finance.

143. A few days after the fall of the Kamil Ministry, which declared that it was impossible to go on with the war because there were no means of finding money, Rifaat Bey became Minister of Finance. In the almost desperate financial conditions credit must be given to the skill and ingenuity with which the Young Turk Government have managed to meet their liabilities and carry on the administration at all, while scrupulously respecting all obligations to their foreign bondholders. It was only possible by the non-payment of salaries and by the sale of Treasury bonds under onerous terms.

144. The most important services were rendered by the Administration of the Public Debt, which advanced to the Government at various times between March and July, sums amounting to £T 1,039,000, guaranteed by the 3 per cent. Customs

surtax, and later further sums to the amount of £T 1,000,000. The sale of 6 per cent. Treasury Bills, guaranteed by the war taxes, up to a total of £T 1,500,000, was effected under very unfavourable conditions. In April 1913 the Société des Phares advanced £T 500,000 at 7 per cent. for the renewal of their contract for twenty-five years, and in August the Tobacco Regie advanced £T 1,500,000 at 6½ per cent. for the renewal of their concession for a similar period. The sale of the Taxim barracks and Stock Exchange building to a Franco-German syndicate realised £T 500,000, paid on account, and advances were also obtained from the Anatolian Railway Company (£T 200,000), from the Baghdad Railway Company (£T 224,000), from the Agricultural Bank (£T 300,000), from the Imperial Ottoman Bank (£T 350,000, in two amounts), from the Constantinople Municipality (£T 62,000), as well as a further advance of £T 100,000 from the Tobacco Regie. Finally, the Peror operation in December, enabling the Government to buy the dreadnought battleship "Rio de Janeiro," building for the Brazilian government, increased the floating debt by £T 4,000,000 the credit on account of sale of the ship amounting to interest at the rate of 22 per cent.

145. The total increase of the floating debt during the financial year, which ends 28th February, may roughly be estimated at between £T 3,000,000 and £T 10,000,000. Although negotiations were begun for a large consolidating loan, they were not completed until the present year and no addition was made to the funded debt, which in March 1913 amounted to £T 130,720,177.

146. The entire floating debt on 28th February, 1914, i.e., at the end of the financial year 1913-14, is stated to have been:—

	£T
(1.) Treasury bills	12,454,617
(2.) Advances	11,130,770
(3.) Floating debt arising from maturities prior to May 1908	19,148,442
(4.) Outstanding arrears of salaries, pensions, requisitions (approximately)	9,000,000
Total (say)	51,493,830

147. Turkey has for many years been living on borrowed money, and the ordinary revenue has never been sufficient to meet ordinary expenditure. No serious effort has hitherto been made to balance the budget. In this there was little difference between the Hamidian and the Young Turk regime. During the last two years, any attempt at reform having been impossible owing to the heavy war expenditure, the object of the new regime must be considered until they have had time to set their house in order. An important step in this direction was taken by the issue on 11th August of regulations enlarging the powers of the Commission of Financial Reforms. "Tactfully directed," says Sir Richard Crawford, who was mainly instrumental in getting the regulations made, "this body will exercise from within a controlling influence "practically as effective as any measure of control from without, with the further "advantage that it is an intervention which the Ottoman Government can tolerate "with at least loss of dignity and, moreover, the agency through which it is exercised, "through its close associations with Turkish administrations, is better able to reconcile "that its decisions to the real necessities of the situation." The Commission is presided over by the Minister of Finance, and consists of four *ex-officio* and eight nominated members. Of the *ex-officio* members at present one is British (Sir R. Crawford) and one French (M. de Margerie), while of the nominated members four are foreign viz., one French, one British, one German, and one Italian. It is charged with the preparation of the annual budgets, with the initiation and supervision of the application of all laws and regulations relating to finance.

148. The accounts of revenue and expenditure in 1913-14 are still necessarily incomplete, but the figures which have been published show that revenue has been coming in satisfactorily. In spite of the loss of so large an extent of territory as a result of the indirect effects of the war, the total encashed up to the end of February was, taking the £ sterling at 113 piastres, 26,481,000£., compared with 25,840,000£ in 1912-13, or an increase of 641,000£. The figures for 1912-13, including arrears (about 100,000£) which do not appear in the revenue for 1913-14 on account of information not having been received at the Ministry of Finance in time for publication, the results of the latter year will, in fact, be more favourable. The most satisfactory increase is under "Indirect Taxation" amounting to nearly 600,000£. But under "Direct Taxation" there is a falling-off of approximately 181,000£. It must be added that in the accounts for 1913-14 figure sums of 771,000£ under "Tributes

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and of nearly 100,000*l* under "Refunds," which have no counterpart in 1912-13, so that the apparent increase is not a real one

149. Ordinary expenditure authorised in 1913-14 amounts to £2,197,000*l*., of which 13,170,000*l*. are supplementary credits. It is evident, therefore, that the deficit will be very large, possibly nearly 15,000,000*l*.

150. In the extraordinary budget are included votes. For the construction of the Samsoun Railway, 845,000*l*., for road building, 286,000*l*., and, spread over ten years, a capital sum of 4,500,000*l*. to be devoted to the navy, of which up to the end of 1912-13 738,000*l*. had been spent. To this fund has since been added a further vote of 3,000,000*l*. for the purchase of the Dreadnought "Sultan Osman" (Rio Janeiro) bought from Messrs. Armstrong in December.

XVIII. Army

151. In reviewing the part played by the Turkish army during the year 1913, the subject may be conveniently treated by division into the three distinct periods of:—

(A.) The operations in the concluding phases of the war against the allies after the termination of the December-January armistice.

(B.) The subsequent temporary formation of a new Adrianople army culminating in the reoccupation of Adrianople which was rendered possible by the dissensions among the former allies.

(C.) The military situation after the definitive peace with Bulgaria had been arranged, and the projects for the new organisation adopted to meet the changed conditions in the Empire.

152. (A.) It will be recollected that, at the period of the armistice, the Turkish army of Thrace was concentrated behind the Chatalja lines, having successfully opposed the Bulgarian advance at this point. Nothing remained of the armies of the west except the garrisons of Yanina and Scutari (which places together with Adrianople still held out) and some scattered bodies of troops which had escaped from Monastir and were at large in the country to the north of Yanina.

153. The overthrow of the Turkish Government under Kiamil Pasha and the assassination of Nazim Pasha, the commander-in-chief, at the end of January, destroyed the hopes of peace, and hostilities were resumed on the beginning of February. The new commander-in-chief, a person in the person of Izzet Pasha, a former commander in the Yemen but already Enver Bey had begun to play a prominent part in the military proceedings. Recently returned from Cyrenaica, and nominally appointed to the staff of the XIth Army Corps, Enver's complicity in the murder of Nazim corresponded to the event which he created at this juncture by giving rise although it must be said that his actions were probably prompted just as much by what he considered to be the interests of his country as by any personal ambition.

154. The resumed military operations were prosecuted with some vigour during the first few weeks, but the weather was unfavourable, and from March onwards more or less stagnation ensued except as regards the fortresses which were being besieged.

The Bulgarians refused offers of Greek co-operation towards the Gallipoli peninsula, but accepted Servian help in front of Adrianople, the capture of which appeared to be now their chief aim.

At Chatalja the Turks at first made some offensive movements, pushing back the Bulgarian advanced detachments, but little real impression was made, and the Bulgarians on their part limited themselves to a defensive attitude, the operations eventually dwindled down into desultory fighting with occasional bombardments. On account, it is said, of the extremely unfavourable weather conditions, this state of affairs lasted until the end of March, when more serious fighting took place on the Turkish left of the position, where the Turks had previously endeavoured to gain ground by disembarkations on the coast. Encounters continued for several days without decisive result, when, Adrianople having meanwhile fallen, the second armistice supervened towards the middle of April.

155. In the Gallipoli peninsula, the renewal of hostilities in the beginning of February was marked by a strong forward movement towards Bulair on the part of the Bulgarians, they having previously established themselves at Rodosto and as far as Kavak. To deal with this advance, the Turks planned a comprehensive scheme whereby an army corps, assisted by the fleet (and with another corps held ready in support) should disembark at Sharkeui and attack the Bulgarian left, the Bulair garrison at the same time co-operating from the west. But this scheme miscarried. Sharkeui was occupied but the landing operations were slow and the weather bad, so that the Bulair sortie was made independently and beaten back with considerable loss. After this unsuccessful enterprise the troops were re-embarked, a portion being despatched to strengthen the Gallipoli and Bulair garrisons. The Bulgarians established themselves at Hexamili, and no further movements of importance ensued.

156. At Adrianople the Bulgarians occupied the months of February and March with making preparations for a decisive attack on the place. The Turkish garrison was inactive, and the fortress fell, after two days' assault, at the end of March. Yanina, after a protracted resistance, was captured on the 7th March, but Scutari held out until the 23rd April, when the garrison evacuated the town and were allowed to embark intact for Constantinople with arms and guns.

157. Reasons for the disasters which overtook the Turks during the war as a whole have already been freely put forward, and numerous apologias have appeared from both Turkish and German sources, some of the latter writers probably feeling bound to discount the optimistic statements which had been made on German authority before the war. But in reality the causes of defeat are not far to seek.

158. In the first place there were circumstances not directly attributable to the capacity of the Turks to wage war. It is, whether through what they considered the assurances of the Powers or otherwise, the fact remains that as soon as peace was in sight with Italy numbers of men, who had been called to the colours, were discharged. This left the cadres weak. Further, on account of the precautionary measures against possible Italian enterprises and the disturbances in Albania and North Epirus, troops had been to a great extent moved away from their normal peace and mobilisation stations. Hence the war against new adversaries caught the Turks in a most unfavourable position for fresh mobilisation and concentration, and any preconceived plans which they may have had for operating in Thrace or Macedonia were completely upset.

159. Other causes comprise those which may very conceivably be remedied and those which, having regard to the temperament of the Ottoman temperament to modern conditions, may be difficult of remedy.

160. In the first category may be placed the non-completion of the new system of organisation, introduced after the revolution and the advent of the German mission of 1909. Of late this has not only greatly been replaced by new. The measures for the provision already supplied of military necessities for a general mobilisation had not been perfected, nor had the vast book of the regulations and reservists yet received sufficient military instruction for modern warfare. The old difficulties connected with the traversing of great distances by the reinforcing troops without suitable means of transport had not been overcome, the result being that when these troops got into some sort of line the issue was already decided. But difficulties such as these and kindred matters in connection with the question of mobilisation can be surmounted with sufficient time and money, given time and money and with the help of the German staff officers now employed in the Turkish War Office as well, there is no reason to suppose that such defects will not be rectified.

161. In the second category, however, we have such matters as the actual potential capability of the officer, non-commissioned officer and private soldier, the general spirit of the army and the capacity of the higher authority for well-ordered and careful work when left on their own responsibility.

162. In Turkey there seems to be no school officer class, inspired by tradition and in sympathetic touch with the rank and file in matters of comradeship and military spirit. A bearing of tact and address seems to permeate all ranks, and this makes it questionable whether the alert bearing now required by the modern soldier, and especially non-commissioned officer, can ever be attained without some very inspiriting lead on the part of the officer. Enthusiasm for the cause of the late war such as inspired the soldiers of the Balkan States was utterly lacking and if it is that the question of religion cannot now be invoked as formerly one must ask what is the battle cry which is to animate the Turk in future. As regards the higher authorities and the action of independent higher commanders, the reception of the arrangements for the late campaign showed an absolute incapacity for getting such machinery as there was in order and it may be said that the army was beaten after the first few days of disorder and muddle. How far those who direct affairs, if without foreign assistance, may be able to imbue themselves in the future with methods of alertness and decision, remains to be proved.

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163. —(B.) To turn now to the period between the war and the definitive peace with Bulgaria, following upon the reoccupation of Adrianople

164. After the terms of the peace at the end of May, the Turks had a very considerable field army assembled behind Chatalja and vicinity, this army being largely composed of Asiatic troops from Kurdistan and Syria, who had only fought in the later stages of the campaign. It cannot be said that this army was ready for a renewal of war on an important scale, yet as soon as the discussions among the former allies began to take definite shape, it was felt that certain possibilities might be open to a more or less immediate force of this magnitude. Izzet Pasha was still nominally commander-in-chief of this force, but events transpired which still further advanced Enver to the position of the real director. In June an abortive attempt was made to avenge the murder of Nazim, that is to say, attempted in the sense that the real movers in the affair of January were not touched, and the only result which was attained was the assassination of the Grand Vizier and War Minister, Mahmud Shevket, the least influential of the then Committee leaders. After this crime, Izzet became War Minister, and the Bulgarians, becoming involved in disaster, the move for the reoccupation of Adrianople commenced. This movement originally took shape in the taking over from the Bulgarians of the territory handed back under the terms of the May peace, but gradually developed into an advance to the old northern frontier. This advance, practically never, was much accelerated by the Turks at the time, as showing what their army was already ready capable of effecting after the previous unfortunate reverses, and although it was executed with great enthusiasm and some fair arrangement, no opposition was encountered, and the operation was one of slight military importance.

165. The army, which then formed itself in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, was composed of eight army corps provisionally organised from the different units which were available for the holding of the peace proper. That is to say, it comprised the divisions of the three active and three reserve corps which had been organised from the remains of the European troops and Anatolian redifs for the defence of Chanak together with two further corps from the Erzeroum and Syrian divisions, in all some 250,000 men. Other armies were maintained in the Gallipoli peninsula and around Smyrna.

166. The forces in Thrace remained in the field for some considerable time, viz., until October, when the redifs were sent home. The regular Asiatic divisions were however, still retained, and the only partial steps for demobilisation which then took place caused no uneasiness as to what might be the further intentions of the Turkish Government.

167. —(C.) *Third Period up to the Close of the Year.* Up to the end of the year, the army in Thrace remained as stated, but no other aggressive measures were undertaken. Two important military events, however, occurred during this period:—

(*a*) The project for the reorganisation and redistribution of the army consequent upon the loss of territory and altered conditions.

(*b*) The arrival of the new and augmented German mission under General von Limán.

168. (*a*) *The new Army Project* already reported in detail, comprises in brief 13 army corps instead of 11, 36 divisions instead of 34, 201 battalions instead of 156, and the creation of the redif divisions as such. The present Macedonian and Albanian corps are partly replaced by divisions in Western Asia Minor, the detachment which, through friendly circumstances, seems to give more recession for purposes of control. In particular details the organisation differs but little from that in force before the war. There is no increase in the number of battalions appears great, the difference being mainly due to the regiments having now only two battalions instead of three. But it must be recollected that the older scheme only contemplated in the first instance two battalions in peace, and that the third battalions were only latterly formed by demanding the existing battalions of officers and men. For the present, mainly no doubt on account of financial reasons, the two-battalion organisation may continue, but it is extremely probable that arrangements will exist for expansion up to previous limits for war. The creation of the redif divisions as such implies that the former redif centres will in future be the headquarters of recruiting zones, which will continue the work of sending recruits to the colours, and also filling up the cadres on war, the redif soldiers being used as required to complete the nizam units, instead of forming complete units of their own. This gets rid of two disadvantages which appeared during the war, viz., the weakness of the nizam or first line units, and the grouping together of large masses of the lesser trained troops.

169. But it is clear that the new scheme is liable to considerable alteration before final introduction and it will be better dealt with in detail in next year's report after the troops have been redistributed and the project has been reviewed by the responsible advisers for that purpose in the new German mission.

170.—(*b*) *The New German Mission.*—The members of this mission commenced to arrive towards the end of December. In addition to certain officers remaining over from the former mission, the new arrivals only numbered some dozen officers up to the close of the year, but many more have arrived since that date.

171. The original post to which the chief of the mission was assigned, was that of commander of the 1st (Constantinople) Army Corps. This appointment aroused some strong opposition on the part of Russia whose representations on the subject were backed up in a more modified degree by the other partners in the *Entente*. Eventually, the general was withdrawn from the post, the transfer being helped by the action of the German Emperor in causing him to be promoted to full general in the German army, this promotion necessitating advancement to the rank of marshal in the Ottoman army. Marshal von Limán's position now is that of chief of the mission and inspector or general adviser to the Ottoman forces, as such he probably exercises as much influence as if he had remained in his former post, also other officers of the mission have since been appointed to functions of relatively equal importance to that from which the general was removed. However, the disposition of the German mission as a whole and the atmosphere of work, as well as the assumption by Enver Bey (now Pasha) of the post of War Minister with the ensuing drastic changes among the higher personnel of the army are matters which properly pertain to the events of 1914. Apart from the Balkan campaign, the Turkish troops were not engaged in operations on any scale in other parts of the Empire in 1913, the extra troops, additional to the Yemen garrison proper, were mostly withdrawn from that region and, as already noted, a large proportion of the Kurdistan and Syrian corps were brought over to Europe for the campaign against the allies.

XIX.—Naval Report for the Year 1913.

172. In January of this year the fleet was at sea in an engagement with the Greek fleet, returning to Nagara with very little detail of what had actually occurred. The fleet was then commanded by Rames Bey but he was relieved shortly after by Tahir Bey, and it is possible that the former may be court-martialled as a result of the engagement. After this engagement the fleet made practically no cruises in the Sea of Marmora, carrying out various gunnery and torpedo exercises, but these cruises were limited by the lack of fuel resulting from temporary repairs effected to the damage done in the engagement, but these repairs were not seriously taken in hand until the contracted company of Docks and Arsenals (Armstrong, Vickers) was formed and the contract signed in December. They are expected to be finished by the summer of 1914 when it is expected the fleet will go for a cruise in the Mediterranean.

173. The battleships "Barbarossa" and "Torgood" received a great deal of damage. The centre turret of "Barbarossa" was completely put out of action by one shell entering left gun port struck top of left gun just inside turret, scraping out a portion, thus cracking the gun where struck, this shell burst and caused tremendous havoc inside the turret, it lifted the top of the turret over left gun about 3 inches, both guns are pitted with holes about an inch deep, the whole turret is lifted over to the left, and is to-day in the same position as it was when struck by this shell, trained on the starboard beam. Jacks, three fold purchases, and wire hawsers have been used, endeavouring to move the turret but without success. The inside of the turret is absolutely and completely wrecked elevating, training, electric gear, and voice pipes, &c., cease to exist, all paint work was burnt off. The turrets crew consisted of, thirty-five officers and men, all of whom were killed, with the exception of two (one officer and one man) who were in the hand-training compartment, all bodies were burnt and charred, many being unrecognisable some were absolutely flattened out against the wall of the turret.

174. The following report of the engagement is of Turkish origin:—

"At the first stage of the battle the 'Barbarossa,' on which all the enemy's fire was concentrated (especially that of the 'Averoff'), received much damage,

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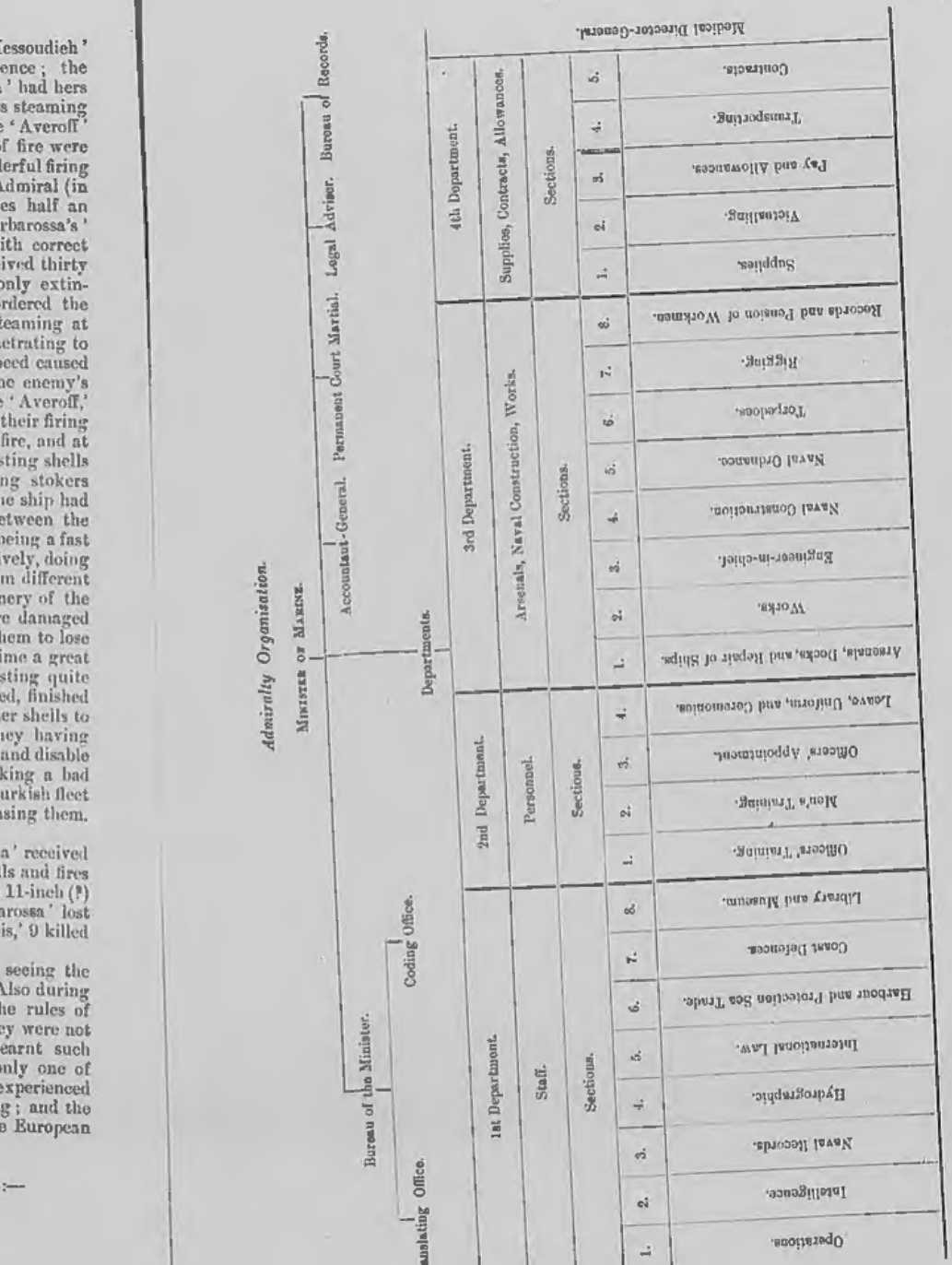
but though so damaged she was still fighting as well as the 'Messoudieh' and 'Torgood Reis,' whose fighting was not of much consequence; the 'Messoudieh' had no range-finder on board, and the 'Barbarossa' had hers put out of action at the beginning of the battle. The 'Averoff' was steaming at a distance of about 6,800 to 9,000 metres and not closing. The 'Averoff' was manœuvred with great cleverness, her movements and aim of fire were such that would be admired by all clever naval officers. Her wonderful firing and manœuvring puzzled the Turkish flagship. By order of the Admiral (in command of the Turkish fleet) the fleet retired on the Dardanelles half an hour after the commencement, but continued battle. The 'Barbarossa's' after turret continued firing, but the 'Averoff' was answering with correct fire, and endeavouring to cut them off. The 'Barbarossa' received thirty shot and shell, eleven fires broke out on board her which were only extinguished after great trouble, and for that reason the admiral ordered the 'Torgood Reis' to take her place; the 'Barbarossa' was only steaming at 8 knots an hour (through smoke of fires and fumes of shell penetrating to the stokehold and causing inconvenience to the stokers); her speed caused the 'Torgood Reis' to lag behind and become the target of the enemy's firing, and was soon in a bad position, receiving all the firing of the 'Averoff,' who showed skill which even the British fleet would be jealous of, their firing being effective. The Turkish battleship answered the enemy's fire, and at the same time trying to reach the fleet. The fumes from bursting shells were carried down the stokehold through ventilators, rendering stokers insensible; and by the time the doctors brought them to again the ship had reduced speed from 12 knots to 8 knots, and so the distance between the 'Torgood Reis' and 'Barbarossa' became great. The 'Averoff,' being a fast cruiser, then had a chance, firing her bow and other guns alternatively, doing a lot of damage to the 'Torgood Reis'; the flames and smoke from different fires in the ship hid her. It is true that the guns and machinery of the 'Torgood Reis' were not damaged, but the fire mains, &c., were damaged and burnt. Panic was caused amongst the men, which caused them to lose all courage, and in this state they arrived off Tenedos. At this time a great change was seen in the 'Averoff's' firing, some of her shells bursting quite close to her when fired, and after three hours' firing had, it seemed, finished her supply of new ammunition and was using old, thus causing her shells to fall short of range. The Turkish ships lost a nice chance (they having enough ammunition) by not turning back to attack the 'Averoff' and disable her. But as they had received a lot of damage, and fires making a bad impression on the captains, they did not do so. Soon after, the Turkish fleet neared the Straits, and the 'Averoff' ceased firing and stopped chasing them. Our fleet ceased fire at 2·50, and at 5·45 arrived at Nagara.

"During the battle, which lasted three hours, the 'Barbarossa' received thirty-one shells and the 'Torgood Reis' twenty-five. The shells and fires damaged several officers' cabins and the sick bay, and some of the 11-inch (?) guns; the engines and boilers were not damaged. The 'Barbarossa' lost 4 officers and 28 men killed and 40 wounded; the 'Torgood Reis,' 9 killed and 52 wounded.

"In this second battle the Turks fought like lions, but seeing the mistakes and bad manœuvrings of the fleet disheartened them. Also during this second battle the tactics of the enemy was according to the rules of war; whilst during the battle (twenty days or a month before) they were not so perfect. It is wondered, then, how could the Greeks have learnt such accurate firing in such a short time (as during the first battle only one of their shots struck our ships); such splendid firing would cause experienced naval officers of the world to be jealous of them. It is astonishing; and the gunners of the 'Averoff' were either pensioned officers of some European Powers or else Greeks serving in the American navy."

175. The following is a report of the organisation of the Turkish navy:—

Admiralty Organisation.



The Minister of Marine.

The Minister deals with the general politics of the State, together with other Ministers, and especially with the affairs of the navy.

Bureau of the Minister of Marine.

The head of this bureau is a staff to, and works under the direct orders of, the Minister of Marine.

The head is a senior naval officer, and has a civilian assistant, and as many clerks as are necessary in his bureau.

He opens all letters sent to the Admiralty and marks them off for the departments concerned; they are registered in the Bureau of Records.

Deals with all personal and official correspondence of the Minister, prepares and collects papers and information to be submitted to Parliament and to the Cabinet.

Is in charge of the coding and translating offices.

Records decisions arrived at whenever the heads of departments meet under the Minister, and informs the departments concerned.

Translating Office.

The head is an assistant head clerk.

This office is attached to the bureau of the Minister direct.

Coding Office.

Keeps and arranges all the keys of the cyphers, coding and decoding all the necessary correspondence of the Admiralty.

The correspondence of the Admiralty which are required to be coded and forwarded is marked either by the Minister himself or the head of the bureau of the Minister.

Bureau of the Accountant-General.

Deals with all financial affairs of the navy, for which it is responsible to the Minister of Marine.

Collects from all departments information about their requirements for the future naval budgets.

Prepares the naval budget for the Minister of Marine to submit to the Government.

The treasury of the Admiralty and the Commission of Collections is also a part of this bureau.

Permanent Court Martial.

Members change each year except the head.

Deals with all cases referred by the Minister in accordance with the existing laws and regulations, and submits the decisions to the Minister.

Legal Adviser.

Deals with and advises on all legal affairs of the Admiralty.

Bureau of Records.

This bureau is attached direct to the Minister. It receives all kinds of letters referred by the Minister, or by the head of the bureau of the Minister, registers them, distributes them to the places concerned.

Receives and keeps all the papers from the various departments when they have finished with them.

The archives are attached to this bureau.

Departments of the Admiralty.

Each department has a head (a naval captain).

In each section there is a head, with necessary number of officers under him.

Commander-in-chief of the Fleet.

Is in command of the active fleet and flotilla.

He is a naval adviser to the Admiralty.

At present the Commander-in-chief is Admiral Limpus, and his staff are the officers of the naval mission.

Station Commodores.

There are three station commodores, which are named :—

(i.) Commodore of the Golden Horn.
(ii.) Commodore of the Red Sea.
(iii.) Commodore of Basra.

They are attached directly to the Minister of Marine.

(i.) The commodore of the Golden Horn hoists his flag in a ship in the Golden Horn. He has four sections attached to him—

(*a.*) Ships.
(*b.*) Harbour duties.
(*c.*) Naval police.
(*d.*) Depôt ship.

(*a.*) He deals with all ships except the active fleet and training ships, being responsible for their repairs and refits, &c.

(*b.*) These are the duties carried out by the captain of one of our dockyards, also the control of all signal stations.

(*c.*) Has control of the guard and disciplinary duties of the dockyard and naval hospital, the training of the fire brigade and guards, also the naval prison, internal and external police duties. He supervises the discipline of officers and men borne on the ships under his command.

(*d.*) Deals with the pay and provisions, &c., of officers and men borne on the depôt ship, and other ships under his command. Gives orders for the various working parties.

It will be noticed that the duties of this officer practically comprise those of the Commander-in-chief, admiral-superintendent, flag captain, and captain of the dockyard of one of our home ports.

(ii.) The headquarters of this commodore are at Hodeideh, but he is permitted to visit (for a short time) Kameran, Jiddeh, and Confida.

All coastguard ships in the Red Sea, from Suez to Aden, are placed under his orders, and he is superior to all harbour-masters in the Red Sea.

He is to prevent smuggling and ensure safety and order in the waters of Yemen, Hijar, and Azir.

His department is divided into two sections, one deals with the coastguard and smuggling, and the other with harbours.

(iii.) This commodore is in command of all coastguard ships in the Gulf of Basra and inside the Shatt-el-Arab, Tigris, and Euphrates.

He is superior to all harbour-masters in these waters.

He is to prevent smuggling and ensure safety and order in these waters.

His department is divided into two sections, the same as for (ii.).

Harbours.

All Turkish harbours in the Mediterranean and Black Sea are divided into four groups—

(i.) Constantinople.
(ii.) Smyrna.
(iii.) Beirout.
(iv.) Samsun.

These are the accepted centres of each group.

(i.) Comprises all harbours inside the Dardanelles, Bosphorus, Sea of Marmora, and in the Black Sea, as far as the Bulgarian frontier on the European side, and as far up as Zonguldak on the Asiatic side.

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(ii.) Comprises all harbours outside the Dardanelles as far as the frontier on the European side, and as far down as Alaieh on the Asiatic side.
(iii.) Comprises all harbours along the coast of Karaman and Syria, except Alaieh.
(iv.) All harbours along the coast between Zonguldak and Batoum.

General and Special Courses in Gunnery, Torpedo, Navigation, and Engineering.

General Courses.

176. These courses are held for every executive officer (termed "deck officer"), lasting about ten weeks to each subject. Failure to pass renders pension.
There are two objects in forming these classes :—

Firstly, to weed out those who could never be of use in the active fleet.
Secondly, to teach those who will be of use in the active fleet the ground-work of their profession.

In the first session of the general courses the failures were about 35 per cent.
Instruction is done entirely by Turkish officers, who have been assisted by lectures and advice from the officers of the admiral's staff.

Special Courses.

It was originally laid down in orders that no officer should be allowed to go through a special course unless he had received a 1st class certificate in the general course. If this regulation had been rigidly enforced it would have taken at least twelve or fifteen months before the special courses could have commenced.
As it was urgently necessary that certain officers should go through special courses pertaining to their branch, a course called "emergency special course" was formed, advantage being taken of the fleet being in the Golden Horn for repairs.
The officers who were actually appointed to ships for gunnery, navigation, and torpedo duties were lent from their ships to go through this emergency special course; and arrangements have been made that certificates obtained in this course will be equivalent to certificates given in future special courses.
Old buildings in the dockyard have been appropriated for these schools, which are very satisfactory.
It appears that although engineer officers are unable to read Turkish questions, the examinations are conducted with great fairness.
The instructors in all schools take much pride, care, and trouble in their work, and the majority of Turkish naval officers realise that these schools are beneficial to their service, and are therefore keen on endeavouring to learn.
The regulations provide that classes shall be made at present from officers of the rank of lieutenant and sub-lieutenant, working from the top of the list, this is perhaps too strictly carried out, because when the classes are formed it is invariably found that two or three officers in each class are unable to either read or write.
When the first list of executive officers belonging to one of the classes was submitted to the Admiralty, it was observed that the duties on which some of these officers had been employed were such as belonging to the slaughter-house, printing-house, hospital attendants, &c.
These appointments have to be filled by someone, and as these officers are quite unfit for sea work, it was recommended that they should be pensioned according to scale, struck off the active list and again employed on the work they had been previously doing.
Referring to the pension of officers, each officer on the active list has a percentage deducted from his pay to support the pension fund. This also applies to all functionaries in the Government departments.
A commission has been examining the records of all officers, with a view to decreasing the active list, and one of the principal recommendations for pension is the lack of sea service. The feeling on this is one of "Kismet." The officers begin to realise that the future of Turkey will largely depend upon their navy, that the navy has been allowed to deteriorate, and that it is very necessary to recuperate as soon as possible, that the country is very short of money, these people are resigned to being

pensioned, realising that they are useless as active service naval officers. About 1,000 have been pensioned.
A new navy list has been made out.
Mud barges, cranes and mouches previously in charge of naval officers are in future to be in charge of civilians.

Naval Barracks.

177. Recruits are supposed to be entered twice a year, they go at once to the naval barracks, where they remain for five months, being kitted up and receive instruction in seamanship, physical exercise, discipline, and a certain amount of gunnery, torpedo and signals.
About twelve old guns from 3-pr. to 4-inch have been placed in the square for drill.
A gun drill battery is in course of construction, in which will be placed one of the "Messudieh's" 6-inch guns.
The signal and W/T schools are in the barracks, but separate. It is at times found difficult to obtain men with the necessary amount of knowledge as candidates for these schools.
In former years all recruits were conscripts, and went to the Ministry of War. Naturally they took the best, and those that were left were sent to the navy. This is now being changed, and those conscripts which come from the littoral are being sent direct to the navy.
The present captain of the barracks (Corvette Captain Shevket Bey) is a good, thoroughly practical officer for the appointment. Good routine for all drills has been established, and he personally takes interest in all that is going on.
The men in barracks are quickly taught to keep themselves well dressed and smart in appearance. This smartness in appearance in most cases continues in those men who go to sea, but the same cannot be said with those that remain on shore, as guards, &c.
At present the discipline amongst the men is more pronounced than it is amongst the officers. Many cases of officers who, imagining they have grievance, forward their resignation, knowing that in many cases they will merely be relieved from the duty they are performing. There is no half-pay system, consequently officers who may be relieved from any particular duty, although placed on the unemployed list, still receive their full pay, doing nothing for it. These difficulties and troubles will certainly soon be overcome with such men as the present Minister of Marine, Admiral Limpus and his staff, who are all most energetic and hard working.
178. A scheme is under foot for a better understanding and working together between the army and navy, and there will be shortly, I fancy, some combined manœuvres with regard to this.

XX.—Personalities.

179. *Prince Said Halim.*—President of the Council of State after the *coup d'Etat* of January, and the successor of the murdered Mahmoud Shefket Pasha as Grand Vizier in June. He is a grandson of Mehemet Ali and first cousin of the Khedive. He was not in favour under the Hamidian régime, and only established himself permanently in Constantinople after the revolution of 1908. His relations with his cousin are not cordial, but he is said to receive a small allowance from him, which has recently been increased. His fortune, derived from landed estate in Egypt, formerly considerable, has been decreased by extravagance and bad management. He is one of the few members of the present Government who can be described as a man of the world and gentleman judged by European standards, and is the only one who gives receptions and dinners, which are on a lavish scale, a large staff of Egyptian servants giving an impression of semi-oriental magnificence. In person he is small, almost insignificant, if it were not for a briskness of manner suggestive of energy and mental alertness rare among Orientals. He has strong likes and dislikes. He had a low opinion of Sir Eldon Gorst, and disliked him, but appears to be a sincere admirer of Lord Cromer. He is supple and conciliatory, and always ready to listen to arguments of people with whom he may disagree. One of his principal characteristics is a light-hearted optimism, which blinds him to the possible consequences of a policy to which he has given his adhesion, but his colleagues frequently take important decisions without referring to him. He is not a man of dominating character, and is rather the figurehead than the leader of the Government.

180. He is connected by the marriage of his sister with Cherif Pasha, one of the most bitter opponents of the Union and Progress party, who until recently carried on in the "Méchersutiette" (Constitution), published in Paris, a violent campaign against the Government, of which his brother-in-law is the nominal head.

181. *Talaat Bey.*—Now Minister of the Interior, is one of the most striking personalities of the Committee of Union and Progress. He played an important part in both the revolutions of 1908 and 1909, and his influence, whether as Minister or as one of the secret group which dictated the policy of the Government, has since that time been all-powerful. His origin is humble; before the revolution he was a minor official at Salmika on a salary of 100*l.* a year. In appearance he is a contrast to the Grand Vizier, being tall and heavily built, verging on corpulence, with a look and gait which recall desciptions of Mirabeau, Danton, or Dr. Johnson. He is a man of high capacity and great energy, unscrupulous, and absolutely fearless. He is intensely patriotic, and the main object of his ambition, which can hardly be called personal, since with many opportunities he has not enriched himself, is the regeneration of his country. Whether he will always choose the best means of arriving at this end may be doubted, and there is some danger that he may be carried further than he wishes by his more violent and chauvinist associates.

182. *Enver Pasha* is equally daring but even more unscrupulous than Talaat and more influenced by personal vanity. He is the youngest member of the Ministry, being scarcely more than 35. He is small, has regular features, and a pale clear complexion, with flashing eyes, gentle and peculiarly attractive when he smiles, but with an occasional gleam suggestive of hardness and even cruelty. He is quiet and reserved. For a long time he was content to remain in the background, though his influence as one of the secret group which has governed Turkey since the revolution, has been powerful. It was only in December last that he became Minister at the War Office. He is thought to wish to play the part of a Napoleon whom he considers that he resembles, and for whom he has a great admiration. In boldness of conception, but not in importance of immediate results, the *coup d'État* of the 23rd January might be compared to the more famous one of the 9th November, 1799, when the Council of the Ancients was driven from St. Cloud, and his recent marriage with a Princess of the Imperial Family may possibly help his career in the same way as Madame de Beauharnais helped that of Napoleon. Whether he has exceptional military talent has not yet been proved. In the Balkan war, after his return from organising the Arab resistance to the Italian army in Tripoli, he had no opportunity of showing of what he was capable. Even in the later stages of the war and the subsequent movements which resulted in the reoccupation of Thrace, he was not in command of the unsuccessful expedition to Bulair, nor of the army which entered Adrianople, though he probably had a good deal to do with the initiation and organisation of both operations. In any case he is a man to be counted with, and will leave his mark at the Ministry of War where, for the first time in the history of Turkey, he has had the courage to make a clean sweep of inefficients, and is active in introducing administrative reforms.

183. Though without private means, he lives in a palace on a scale which contrasts with the simplicity of the habits of his other colleagues, except the Grand Vizier. He never moves except accompanied by four or five general officers and aides-de-camp, with a second motor car always in attendance. On one occasion, when giving a banquet to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers, instead of receiving his guests, he waited until they were all assembled, when he made his entry in semi-royal state, accompanied by his suite. His sympathies, education, and methods are German, and his residence in Berlin as military attaché has had a strong influence on his character and career. It is more than probable that he is subventioned by the German Government.

184. *Djemal Bey* has more of the southern than the oriental temperament. He is a soldier, born in Constantinople of parents who came from Mitylene. Before becoming Minister of Public Works in December last (and subsequently Minister of Marine), he was Military Governor of the capital. He is honest, impulsive, and imaginative; violent tempered and frequently, if not systematically, brutal in his treatment of his subordinates. He is a man of great energy and determination, filled with a most ardent patriotism degenerating into Chauvinism, which makes light of difficulties, and is often blind to the realities of the situation. He is lacking in the qualities of statesmanship which Talaat Bey has acquired, and more inclined to rash adventure.

185. *Hakki Bey*, lately President of the Council of State and actually President

of the Chamber. He is the most purely Turkish of all the Ministers, and a patriot who quotes the glories of the past history of Turkey in inflammatory speeches of which the refrain is revenge. He is shrewd, but not well educated, and inclined to take a narrow view, but like most Turkish politicians he is changeable in his views and influenced by considerations which are not directly germane to the question at issue. His obesity produces an impression of geniality, which is confirmed by closer acquaintance.

186. *Djavid Bey.*—The personality of Djavid Bey, Minister of Finance, is better known than that of most of his colleagues, owing to his visits to Paris and Berlin. He belongs to a crypto-Jew family of Salonica and has most of the characteristics of his race. His intelligence and capacity are of the highest order. He possesses an amazing quickness of comprehension and power of argument; he is a fluent and brilliant speaker, combining this gift with the possession of common sense and statesmanlike qualities which do not always accompany it. His sympathies are French rather than German, and he is not ill-disposed towards England. He is less daring than Enver, Talaat, and Djemal, who would flinch at nothing to achieve their purpose.